Daily Report

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Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-207 *25 October 1991*

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Arms Official Comments on Nuclear Arsenal Cuts

PM2410132791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Oct 91 Union Edition p 5

[A. Sychev report: "Will the Uranium Plants Stop Work?"]

[Text] The U.S. weekly NEWSWEEK reported in its last issue that, according to information received from a high-ranking administration staffer, U.S. President George Bush is preparing a radical new proposal to reduce nuclear arsenals. According to the magazine's information, Bush intends to appeal for the establishment of a permanent ban on the production of fissionable nuclear materials (uranium and plutonium), which are used in nuclear weapons, as well as the introduction of new restrictions on nuclear tests.

On the basis of Bush's proposals, NEWSWEEK continues, the United States could save billions of dollars by closing down several obsolescent and unsafe nuclear installations at which large-scale and costly purification work already has to be carried out.

If the U.S. President were to adopt such a decision—which, according to NEWSWEEK's information, is to be made public before the meeting of the U.S. and USSR presidents scheduled for 29 October in Madrid, where they will arrive for the opening of the peace conference on the Near East—Washington would be taking a big step toward the Soviet position expounded in Mikhail Gorbachev's 5 October statement.

Thus, Point 4 of the Soviet initiatives, in particular, speaks of the Soviet Union's introduction of "a one-year unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing"—which, with the support of other nuclear powers, will open up "the way to the speediest and full cessation of nuclear tests." In addition, as Gorbachev said, "we favor reaching agreement with the United States on the controlled cessation of production of all weapons-grade fissionable materials."

IZVESTIYA asked Yevgeniy Golovko, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Problems of Arms Limitation and Disarmament Administration, to comment on this report. Ye. Golovko recalled that the Soviet Union is already implementing the previously announced program to phase out all installations for the production of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium. "We intend to fulfill the program during the current decade," he said. "We are ready to hold talks with the United States on the problem of verifying the cessation of production of the nuclear filling."

In principle the establishment of a ban on the production of fissionable materials, Golovko continued, leads to enhanced ecological safety and can be regarded as one aspect of slowing down the nuclear arms race. The need for and possibility of this step are accounted for by the fact that nuclear arsenals are being reduced today and additional materials for warheads are not needed.

"As for nuclear tests, of course we would prefer the United States to follow our example and announce a moratorium," Golovko said. "But we will also welcome the fact that they are prepared to limit their own program (true, NEWSWEEK does not report whether it is a question of quantitative parameters or yield, or both), assuming Washington makes such a decision. Although this is not a full cessation of testing by the U.S. side, it is still a step in the right direction. We are ready to continue talks on this problem. All the more so as in 1987 the United States and the USSR pledged to hold talks on radical reductions in nuclear tests right down to their total cessation. We would, on the whole, welcome these steps by the U.S. Administration."

Official Wants Central Nuclear Control

OW2410024091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Obukhov, a leading Soviet expert in nuclear disarmament, said in an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX] that he was "absolutely convinced" of the need for united control over Soviet nuclear weapons. According to him, verification of the Soviet Union's compliance with its disarmament pledges should also be by one authority. A united control cannot do damage to the sovereignty of the former Soviet republics, said Mr. Obukhov.

Mr. Obukhov will accompany Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Madrid in late October to meet with U.S. President Bush. The meeting is planned to discuss the latest Soviet and U.S. initiatives on nuclear disarmament. Mr. Obukhov said to IF that these initiatives are new in that Moscow and Washington said they planned to move toward disarmament without any linkages and complex verification measures.

Talks Seen on USSR as 'One Nuclear Space'

OW2410191291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1813 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament's resolutions to form a Ukrainian army has posed additional problems to Soviet nuclear arms negotiators at talks with the United States. It is very likely that President Mikhail Gorbachev will have to give explanations to President George Bush at their meeting in Madrid on October 29 whether the USSR will remain as one nuclear space.

It is not ruled out that before the next round of Soviet-US consultations on cuts in short-range and strategic weapons, originally scheduled for the middle of next month, there will be negotiations between the former union republics. The Western partners are interested in unified control of nuclear arms in the USSR, because the decay of a nuclear super-power into several smaller nuclear powers is fraught with unpredictable consequences.

The USSR Foreign Ministry seems to be aware of the response abroad to statements similar to those by the leaders of the Ukraine. While Prime Minister Vytold Fokin would like to have one nuclear button in Moscow and the other in Kiev, the first Vice-Premier Konstantin Masik claims that Boris Yeltsin has discussed with the military the possibility of a nuclear strike against the Ukraine.

After the US Deputy Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew has had the first round of consultations concerning the implementation of the Bush-Gorbachev disarmament initiatives, some Soviet experts seem to have a rose-coloured picture of the situation. The USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Obukhov says the main political result of the consultations with Mr. Bartholomew was that neither side found any problems that would prevent them from implementing nuclear disarmament proposals. Apparently, the march of events ir the USSR will make experts change their evaluations.

Republics To Join Soviet-US Nuclear Talks

LD2310175191 Moscow TASS in English 1712 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksey Tabachnikov and Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 23 TASS—Representatives of former Soviet republics, on whose territories strategic nuclear arms are located, will from now on take part in the Soviet-U.S. negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

This was the decision of the first meeting of representatives of Foreign Ministries from 11 former Union republics (with the exception of Moldavia and the Baltic states) last Tuesday in Moscow, said Nikolay Spassky, a Soviet Foreign Ministry expert on the Soviet-U.S. relations.

They also agreed to coordinate their stands on preparations of a Soviet-U.S. summit, which is expected to be held late this October.

Spassky told TASS that "the meeting was the first discussion of all the range of relations with the United States with participation of sovereign republics." The opinions varied in details, still the general attitudes were the same.

All the republics have confirmed their adherence to the Soviet-U.S. agreements on various aspects of bilateral contacts.

Meeting participants also discussed the opening of their consulates in the U.S.A. However, it was only the matter of elaboration of the way to solve this problem, since a number of material and technical difficulties arises, Spassky noted.

Round of U.S.-Soviet ABM Talks Ends

LD2410213891 Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Geneva October 24 TASS—The 16th round of the Soviet-U.S. ABM talks ended here today. The talks are regularly held as part of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space armaments.

The sides exchanged views on problems regarding ways to prevent the arms race in outer space and to strengthen strategic stability in the world. It was agreed that the talks would resume in Geneva on January 13, 1992.

Worldwide Issues

Lobov Remarks on NATO's Role, Fleet

AU2210131891 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 22 Oct 91 p 10

[Rolf Goertz report: "Woerner: NATO Remains Unrenounceable; Soviet Chief of Staff Advocates Dissolution of Alliance; Conference in Madrid"]

[Text] Madrid—"NATO actually no longer has any tasks; it can hardly be used today. And the question of whether NATO should be dissolved is the business of NATO itself," General Vladimir Lobov, Soviet chief of staff, stated in an interview for DIE WELT on the occasion of the 37th annual conference of the parliamentary North Atlantic conference, which is currently being held in Madrid. Before the plenum, the Soviet chief of staff also confirmed the view that he took vis-a-vis DIE WELT, that is, that NATO should be dissolved: "The political circumstances and, along with them, the statements are constantly changing."

In contrast to this, NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner said yesterday at the annual conference of the Atlantic Assembly in Madrid that the NATO alliance also continues to be unrenounceable after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact: "Without NATO, a stable order is not conceivable because Europe and North America need each other now even more than before the breakdown of communism." From Woerner's point of view, NATO's dissolution would have "disastrous consequences."

In answer to the question about the future of the Soviet fleet, Chief of Staff Lobov told DIE WELT in Madrid that military command structures, with which the

restructuring will rest, will be formed in the foreseeable future. The individual republics situated on the coast might have their own units, while the high-seas fleet will remain under a joint supreme command, he said.

The question about restructuring arises in particular for the Black Sea fleet stationed in Sevastopol. Sevastopol belongs to the Ukraine, but the Ukraine has not yet joined the new council of so far eight republics. Things are different with the North Sea fleet, which is stationed in the ports on the Kola peninsula and in Murmansk. These ports, as well as Vladivostok, where the fleet operating in the Pacific is stationed, belong to Russia.

The Baltic states are negotiating on the withdrawal of the Soviet Navy units from its ports with the emissaries appointed by Soviet President Gorbachev, among them, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, presidential adviser Aleksandr Yakovlev, and former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The Baltic participants in the conference are interested in the return of the ports confiscated by the Soviet Navy and the offshore islands.

Lobov Evaluates North Atlantic Assembly Session

LD2410105491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2347 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)—"I am convinced that the Soviet political and military leadership has real levers capable of preventing the disintegration of a single defense space and the collapse of the armed forces. The criterion for these opportunities has been and remains control of nuclear weapons," Vladimir Lobov, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff said in an interview with a TASS correspondent after returning to Moscow from Madrid on Wednesday. He had taken part in the work of the 37th autumn session of the North Atlantic Assembly, which was held in the Spanish capital.

"I had meetings with NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner; Charles Rose, chairman of the North Atlantic Assembly; and with the heads of the delegations of all the countries taking part in its work," V. Lobov said. "Typical of the international forum is its considered approach to problems of security. As for our country, everyone was, in general, in favor of the preservation of its economic unity and the development of democratic principles." [Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 25 Oct in a report on the interview with Lobov adds: "At the same time it was noted that for all the readiness of Western countries to give us assistance, they need to know precisely what structures in the USSR they have to deal with."]

"On several occasions," V. Lobov noted, "the matter of the situation which is developing over the Soviet nuclear arsenal was raised. Our partners expressed concern that several nuclear states might be formed as a result of the break-up of the Soviet Union. It is only natural that in such circumstances the matter of strategic arms control is of particular urgency. There is also concern in the West that the ratification of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Strategic Offensive Weapons might be in question as a result of the disintegration processes."

"Aware that sound arguments lie behind all these questions," the chief of the General Staff went on to say: "I stressed several times in Madrid that in spite of the aspirations of certain republics to become nuclear states, commonsense prevails in our country, and there is growing conviction of the need to preserve single leadership and control over nuclear weapons. I think that my reasoning and conviction were correctly understood and received," he pointed out. [The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA report omits the preceding paragraph]

To the TASS correspondent's suggestion that he think a little about the prospects for creating a single security system and appropriate military structures with the involvement of the armed forces of countries from East and West, V. Lobov replied: "If we are talking about the common European home and a single economic space, of security measures for the whole of Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, this is a valid form in which to raise the question. However, in my view, it is not a matter of the very near future." [The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA report concludes adding: "Let us first impose order at home, and then in seven to 10 years' time we can return to the question of the integration of existing military structures, Vladimir Lobov said in conclusion."].

China

Soviet, Chinese Economic Reforms Compared

OW2410071891 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1400 GMT 23 Oct 91

[From the "Half an Hour With Wang Xiao" program]

[Text] Dear listeners, China's economic reform has attracted wide attention not only because of its rapid results, but also because of the similarity between the problems China and the Soviet Union want to solve in their reforms.

Bogomolov—the well-known Soviet economist, director of the International Economy and Politics Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences—believes that the two countries can learn many beneficial things from each other's experience in reform. In an interview with our reporter Machinko, Bogomolov said: I visited China more than three years ago. Among China's achievements that most deeply impressed me were the revitalization of its agriculture and its development of (?supply and marketing) enterprises on the basis of using the market economic lever. The visit once again confirmed my belief that the Soviet Union did not start from this point in its economic reform.

Agricultural-industrial joint establishments are most sensitive to the market situation. Reform should start exactly from here, which is what China did. The Soviet Union, however, began by liberalizing its industry. It lifted restrictions on raising wages, thus paving the way for inflation. By taking steps such as proceeding toward a market economy, the Chinese have not only maintained but have actually raised the people's living standard. The Soviet Union failed to do this.

Another reason for the Soviet Union's failure is that it has not been as determined as China in carrying out economic reform. We have talked too long about the need for a transitional period for transforming to the market economy but have not taken any actions. Six years have passed since the Soviet Union began its reform; yet we have just begun the first step toward thorough reforms.

To find a way out for market reform, Soviet leaders first launched in-depth political reforms. Bogomolov said: We have gone farther than China in this respect. I believe that the future of China's economic reform depends to a fairly large extent on how far our eastern neighbor carries out its political reform. One should realize that economic reform must be based on giving producers a fairly large amount of decision-making power. To promote economic reform, we should limit the powers of all government departments and the powers of the central and local governments; the party should be asked to play a (words indistinct) role; it should exercise political leadership and should not issue administrative orders and directives. China so far has not conducted such political reforms.

Yavlinskiy, another well-known Soviet economist and member of the Political Consultative Council under the Soviet president, holds almost exactly identical opinions as Bogomolov does. Yavlinskiy said: Because the state lifted restrictions on agricultural producers, China has solved the most important problem—the grain problem. In my opinion, China has not achieved so much in other economic sectors. If more democracy were allowed in China, its economic achievements would have been greater. Yavlinskiy said democracy is needed because it can bring greater freedom and more open communication, can prevent people from seeking personal gains through engaging in fraudulent practices and abusing authority, and can enable leaders to better use their wisdom and knowledge. If entrepreneurs' fates in many ways depend on government officials' peculiar thinking, fertile soil will be created for corruption and fraudulent practices. This problem is extremely important both in China and the Soviet Union. It can be solved only under the conditions of a free market economy and after compelling administrative orders and the binding of ideological doctrine are disposed of. In conclusion, Yavlinskiy said exchanging experience in this area will be very beneficial.

Northeast Asia

Gorbachev Receives Japanese Executive

LD2510083191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1520 24 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)— USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev received Minoru Murofushi, a prominent representative of Japan's business world and president of the C. Itoh company, today.

The USSR president duly recognized the contribution of the Itochu company—our country's longstanding partner—to the development of business ties between the two countries, according to the USSR president's office. It was stated that the Soviet-Japanese summit opened new opportunities for cooperation between two great peoples on the basis of good-neighborliness, realism, and mutual benefit.

Mirofushi supported this view, having noted that after the USSR president's visit to Japan feelings in favor of broad cooperation with the Soviet Union had become markedly stronger in business circles and public opinion. He confirmed his company's interest in implementing major long-term projects, creating joint enterprises and investing in various regions of our country.

C. Itoh Chief Meets Volskiy

OW2410235891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Arkadiy Volskiy, deputy chairman of the USSR Committee on the Economic Management, who had a meeting with Minoru Murofushi, president of the Japanese firm "C. Itoh" Thursday, said that a regular meeting of the State Council is scheduled for November 4 and will discuss the inter-republican structure of economic management bodies. Mr. Volskiy said that the main body among them would be the inter-republican economic committee, the successor of the former Soviet government. He noted that the Committee on economic management has already exhausted itself.

Mr. Volskiy said that the State Council would examine 8 most important draft economic agreements out of 22 to be signed in the framework of the economic community. They will mainly concern the banking and hard currency systems.

As IF [INTERFAX] learned, candidacies for the post of the inter-republican economic management committee deputy chairman will not be considered until the State Council approves the structure of the committee. However, it is planned that its chairman Ivan Silayev should have 6 deputies.

Japanese Trade Minister's Moscow Talks Assessed

PM2310155791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 91 Union Edition p 4

[By A. Anichkin: "It Will Be Hard To Use Japanese Aid"]

[Text] The talks that Eiichi Nakao, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, had 21 and 22 October signify something fundamentally new in Soviet-Japanese relations. Although the minister made this trip within the framework of the decisions of the G-7 London conference, it is also the first-ever visit to Moscow by the head of the Japanese department, where the main areas of the country's industrial and trade policy are determined.

The development of bilateral economic ties has so far been hindered by the unsettled nature of the territorial question. This obstacle remains even now. The difference is that the Japanese, to all appearances, now seriously want to move into the Soviet market, not confining themselves to simple trade but supplementing it with impressive investments. Therefore USSR President M. Gorbachev was evidently fair in his assessment when he declared at the meeting with Minister Nakao that a healthy and fruitful balance of both economics and politics has been established in Soviet-Japanese relations, which had for a long time been dominated by politics.

Before E. Nakao's trip and the foreign minister's visit, which preceded it, the Japanese Government had announced its decision to grant the USSR economic aid to the tune of $2.5 billion. Now, in Moscow, E. Nakao discussed possible areas for using this aid with I. Silayev, chairman of the Interrepublic Economic Committee. Silayev said that after the signing of the Economic Community Treaty, his committee must be regarded as the guarantor of the fulfillment of pledges regarding repaying credits provided to the Soviet side. He expressed gratitude to the Japanese side for its assistance and gave an assurance that efficient use will be made of it to resolve the most acute problems, including the food problem.

All these assurances are perfectly relevant in conversation with the Japanese. Even though Eiichi Nakao spoke of readiness to assist in the development of such sectors of the Soviet economy as oil and gas extraction, the electrical equipment industry, and consumer goods production, this readiness will be done not by means of direct financial injections into the USSR's broken-down economy but by encouraging activity by private Japanese corporations. According to reports from sources in the delegation accompanying the minister on his trip, of the sum total of $1.8 billion to insure Japanese firms' contracts with Soviet enterprises (this is a constituent part of the $2.5 billion package) it is planned to allocate $1 billion to projects to expand oil extraction in the USSR. The start of urgent deliveries of materials and equipment for the extraction and transportation of petroleum products is expected soon.

Of course, all this inspires optimism. But the Japanese are very concerned, as we are too, by the deepening chaos in the Soviet economy. That is why the aid will remain in Japan until it is clear that we are capable of "digesting" it. Already during the minister's talks in Moscow, a report by a special mission of his ministry, which had just completed a study tour of the USSR's Far East, was published in Tokyo. The mission's conclusions are extremely depressing: failure to understand the ways to carry out conversion, Soviet businessmen's lack of real knowledge of the working of enterprises under market conditions, overestimation of technical cadres' qualifications... But IZVESTIYA will deal with this in detail in the next few issues.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Pankin, Vietnamese Counterpart Discuss Relations

LD2310220691 Moscow TASS in English 2053 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Paris October 23 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on Wednesday met his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam to discuss Soviet-Vietnamese relations, including trade and economic cooperation.

Both ministers agreed to continue cooperation between the Soviet and Vietnamese foreign ministries.

Ministry Protests Forced Cambodian Repatriation

LD2410011691 Moscow TASS in English 2103 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS special correspondents Viktor Khrenkov and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Paris October 23 TASS—A statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry's representative has been circulated here today in connection with reports on repatriation by force of Cambodian displaced persons.

A historic breakthrough has been made in the process of the Cambodian settlement—documents, that have been signed, crown the many-year search for a mutually-acceptable formula of national reconciliation in Cambodia and the restoration of peace in South-eastern Asia, the statement says.

The recent reports on plans of "Khmer Rouge" to repatriate by force a number of Cambodian displaced persons and refugees in evasion of coordinated provisions of the Paris agreements, look like dissonance against this background, the statement says.

The Soviet Union supports the statement of the United Nations secretary-general of October 16, 1991, on this issue and believes that only complete and unconditional observance of agreements on comprehensive political settlement in Cambodia will lead to the genuine restoration of peace in this country.

Information from the Thai-Cambodian border area makes us return to the issue of human rights in Cambodia. In this connection, we would like to state definitely that the Soviet Union decisively calls for solid guarantees of no-return to the tragic policy and the practice of the recent past in this country, the representative said.

It is a duty of the international community to help Cambodians in turning their motherland into a peaceful and democratic state, in which basic human rights and freedoms are fulfilled in full respect, as they are laid down in corresponding international treaties, including the convention on banning genocide and its punishment, the representative said in conclusion.

Near East & South Asia

Israeli Ambassador on New Relations, Embassy

OW2410194791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1813 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Soviet-Israeli relations are going to develop fruitfully, the Israeli ambassador, Arye Levin, said today (October 24) at a press conference held in connection with the elevation of the Israeli Consulate General to the status of embassy.

Mr. Levin said there were "no serious problems" as regards the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, which, he remarked, was growing from year to year. Asked by an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent whether the Soviet Embassy will be located in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, the ambassador said this had not been decided yet. The Soviet side, he thought, might be considering the matter at the moment. He said he did not know who would be the Soviet Ambassador to Israel.

Mr. Levin could see no reason why Israeli consulates should not be opened in various towns and cities in the Soviet Union. As for the opening of Israeli embassies in the Baltic countries, this, he believed, was a purely technical matter, for Israel had already recognised these states.

He was uncertain, however, about whether diplomatic relations would be established between Israel and Russia in the near future, for Russia has not yet become a completely sovereign state. The Russian and Israeli Governments will take an appropriate decision when this happens. Mr. Levin did not see any obstacles to that. The same applied to the other Soviet republics on the way to independence.

The ambassador described Soviet anti-Semitism as a disease which reflects certain phenomena taking place in the Soviet Union. But it was quite obvious, he said, that public opinion in the USSR takes a strongly negative attitude to anti-Semitism.

Background on Ambassador Levin

LD2410165291 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 24 TASS—The ceremony of opening the Israeli Embassy was held in Moscow today.

In the past the Soviet Union directly contributed to the formation of the State of Israel by voting in 1947 in the United Nations for resolution 181. However, relations between the two countries have had a chequered history. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on May 26, 1948. The Soviet diplomatic mission headed by a counsellor was opened two months later. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were raised to ambassadorial level in 1954.

During the six-day Arab-Israeli war in June 1967, Moscow broke off diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv.

Consular relations between the two countries were restored on October 1, 1990. In January 1991, the missions were elevated to consulates-general. On October 18 Israel and the Soviet Union signed an agreement to restore full diplomatic relations.

A high official of the Israeli Embassy told TASS that Arye Levin was appointed Israeli ambassador to the USSR. A protocol visit of Mr. Levin to the Soviet Foreign Ministry and his presentation of credentials is expected shortly.

Arye Levin, a career diplomat, is 60. His parents were born in Russia. He has held a number of high posts in the Israeli Foreign Ministry and abroad. From January 1991 he was Israeli consul-general to the USSR. He has an excellent command of Russian, English and Farsi.

At a news conference after the ceremony, Levin said the restoration of diplomatic relations creates more favourable possibilities for the development of bilateral ties in every area.

Levin said that there are plans to open Israeli consulates in several Soviet cities. He said there are no obstacles to the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Baltic countries and other sovereign states, and that the Israeli Government will consider this.

East Europe

Senior Diplomat Comments on Yugoslavia Conflict

OW2410193091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1813 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet president's press secretary has said that President Gorbachev and President Bush at their meeting in Madrid will pay serious attention to the situation in Yugoslavia and ways of ending bloodshed in that country.

A senior USSR Foreign Ministry official has said that materials concerning Yugoslavia are being prepared for President Gorbachev already. The American side has been doing the same.

The diplomat believes it is very unlikely that in Madrid the Soviet Union and the United States will come out with a joint initiative concerning Yugoslavia, the more so, since on the opening day of another session of the conference on Yugoslavia in the Hague (October 18) the Soviet Union, the United States and the European Community already made a joint statement. The Soviet diplomat hopes it will work.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry official also said that quite a few positive elements were contained in proposals by the chairman of the Hague conference Lord Carrington (they will be discussed in The Hague on October 25). Lord Carrington came out with the idea of a loose association. Five of the six Yugoslav republics (except Serbia) have said they are ready to accept this proposal as a basis for discussion. The Soviet diplomat believes that this is the sole acceptable option capable of putting an end to the fratricidal war in Yugoslavia.

To make the warring factions stop hostilities and come to the negotiating table is most important. However, it is unclear whether all parties to the conflict are ready to do that.

Asked about his personal view of events, the Soviet diplomat said that the political opportunities of the European Community and the Soviet Union were coming to an end. However, this does not mean that they should give up efforts to put an end to bloodshed in Yugoslavia, the more so since the warring factions seem to have welcomed super-power cooperation.

West Europe

Norwegian Expulsion of 'Diplomats' Viewed

OW2410194191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1813 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet Foreign Ministry considers it unlikely that the expulsion of eight Soviet diplomats from Norway will result in a deterioration in bi-lateral relations. The Norwegian authorities were alerted to the activities of the eight, who have been declared "persona non grata", by evidence given by former KGB agent Mikhail Butkov who worked in Oslo under the guise of a journalist and has recently defected to Great Britain. The situation, according to Soviet foreign policy sources, is perfectly clear.

Bearing in mind the course of events in the USSR it is unlikely that there will be any tit-for-tat measures against accredited Norwegian diplomats in Moscow. And in any case, Norwegian diplomatic representation in Moscow is too small for similar measures to be taken against eight people. There are few who believe that Moscow will respond as it traditionally has done in the past by sending a note accusing diplomats of "unfriendly activity".

It is expected that the final decision will be taken by Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on his return from a tour of the Middle East and France. Although nothing has as yet been said, events could be viewed from quite another approach quite unrelated to Soviet- Norwegian relations. "The case of the eight" may well be used as ammunition in the vague but potentially damaging polemic between Boris Pankin and Academician Yevgeny Primakov, recently named as head of the External Intelligence Service.

If Foreign Minister Pankin has promised to review the former practice of stationing KGB officers in Soviet embassies abroad, then Primakov has openly promised that he will speak to Pankin in order to persuade him not to. No meeting has yet taken place but when it does it is clear what argument one of the sides will use. Some commentators define the situation thus far in sporting terminology as one-nil to Pankin. However, the match has only just kicked off and it is too early to speak of the final score.

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Adopts Temporary Standing Orders

LD2210153391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1138 GMT 22 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Oct (TASS)—Most of the sittings of the two chambers of the Soviet parliament will now be held separately. The deputies will gather for joint sittings only to draw up major decisions. This is the working procedure envisaged by the interim standing instructions ratified by the overwhelming majority of members of the Soviet of the Union today. The Soviet of the Republics ratified the standing orders on Monday. According to the interim standing orders, joint bodies of both chambers are formed to discuss and introduce amendments to the USSR Constitution, to receive new states into the Union of the USSR, to ratify the Union budget and accounts on its implementation, to declare war and conclude peace, and to decide other global issues of domestic and foreign policy. The Soviet of the Republics chairman and the Soviet of the Union chairman will take turns chairing the joint sittings. The new parliament has no chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet. USSR laws are, as before, signed by the USSR president. Joint resolutions of both chambers are signed by their chairmen.

Gorbachev Proposes Pardoning Deserters

OW2310123191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Gorbachev has submitted to parliament a draft resolution suggesting an amnesty for the people shirking military service. The president says he is guided by humane principles in this case.

The proposed amnesty concerns all military servicemen, reservists and persons called up for military retraining who failed to report to service. Servicemen hiding from investigation or trial will be pardoned if within 30 days since the amnesty is announced they return to their military units or report to any other military office or the police.

Deputies Appeal to 'Sovereign' Republics

LD2510095491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0920 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondents Nikolay Zheleznov and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—Today members of the USSR Supreme Soviet called on the sovereign states which have not yet made a decision on participating in the treaty on economic community and delegating their representatives to work in the Union parliament "to come to understand the need for these steps". The USSR Supreme Soviet's appeal to the peoples, Supreme Soviets and leaders of independent states and also to the council of heads of governments of the economic community was adopted at separate sittings of the chambers.

The Supreme Soviet expressed concern over the fact that "the chaotic disintegration of the republics of the former Union may further destabilize the situation and exacerbate inter-republican relations". "Only in community can we create worthy living conditions for the peoples of our independent states", the document stresses.

The appeal gives a high appreciation of the treaty on economic community, signed by eight republics a week ago, which "can become an important step toward preparing a political agreement".

Union Council Delays Electing Chairman

OW2210155591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1453 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet's Council of the Union voted on Tuesday to delay the election of its chairman. IF's [INTERFAX's] parliamentary correspondent attributes it to the fact that the Ukraine is yet to decide whether or not to take part in the work of the national Supreme Soviet. The other parliamentary chamber, the Council of the Republics, postponed the election of its own head for two days for the same reason.

Boris Vasilyev, who chaired Tuesday's parliamentary session, was asked to contact the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to find out its intentions with regard to the new body of Soviet parlianent.

MP [member of parliament] Vladimir Stadnik suggested sending a delegation of USSR parliamentarians to the Ukraine for talks. He observed that "if we continue sitting on our hands and waiting for their (the Ukrainian delegation's—IF) arrival, we may be meeting for the last time ever."

Debates Organizational Questions

LD2310135391 Moscow TASS in English 1004 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow October 23 TASS—A session of the Council of the Union, one of the chambers of the Union parliament of new composition, continued in the Kremlin today. Groups of deputies are working for the second day in the other chamber, the Council of the Republics.

The debating on the list of standing commissions of the Council of the Union and of committees of the USSR

Supreme Soviet is expected to be completed at the morning meeting of the Council of the Union that just started.

There is an acute debate as to what aspects of the activity of the previous Supreme Council should be preserved and what should be discarded. Diverse opinions are expressed.

It was emphasised that the new parliament having new tasks should approach the problem of forming permanent working bodies of the chambers from the positions of the present day, with taking into account new realities.

Approves Standing Commissions

LD2310214591 Moscow TASS in English 2127 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow October 23 TASS—The Council of the Union, one of the two chambers of the revamped Supreme Soviet of the Union, today approved the list of standing commissions after long and heated debates.

The Council of Republics, the other chamber, did it easily on the very first day of the session last Monday.

The name of the commission to deal with defence and security affairs became a stumbling stone during the discussion at the Council of the Union: deputies feared the danger of mixing up two different structures, which would be difficult to control as a single body.

There were, certainly, grounds for these fears: a similar committee of the Supreme Soviet of the previous composition was dissolved after the August events as it failed to fulfil its duties.

This time, the deputies took into account this unfortunate experience, and decided to create a commission on the armed forces and a commission on security issues. It should be noted, that the Council of Republics decided to unite the issues of defence and security in one commission.

The name of the commission "on Social Protection of Person" also provoked debates. Another name, "on Labor and Social Issues", was approved by the chamber. As deputies noted, this name is justified by its essence.

But the most heated debates were provoked by a proposal of one of the deputies to create in the Council of the Union a standing commission on privileges, which existed in the previous composition of the parliament. However, this proposal did not gain the necessary number of votes.

Kyrgyz Delegation Walks Out

LD2310164391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1551 GMT 23 Oct 91

[by TASS parliamentary correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow 23 October (TASS)—The new USSR Supreme Soviet has only been working for three days, but the first undesirable cases of friction have already emerged. The unparliamentary remarks of a deputy at the session of the Soviet of the Union today served as the basis for a statement by deputies from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan that they were walking out of the hall in protest. Explaining the motive for the walk-out, a representative said: "Deputy Kozyrev came out to the rostrum and asked: 'What are you fighting, feudalism?' So it transpires that we, the deputies from Central Asia and Kazakhstan are feudal."

An appeal by the chairman and deputies to their colleagues leaving the hall to show restraint and prudence had no effect. Discussing the action by the deputies from Kyrgyzstan in the corridors of the session, parliamentarians voiced the view that it was an act dictated more by emotion than by common sense, but that everyone should be more careful and respectful and observe the proprieties.

At the evening sitting Deputy Nikolay Kozyrev explained that in referring to feudalism, he meant that privileges are an institution of feudal-vassal dependence, and in this sense we all live under feudalism, and we must fight this. But since this caused offense, he added, I apologize.

Soviet of Republics Holds Sitting 22 Oct

PM2310135191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by parliamentary observers A. Stepovoy and S. Chugayev: "Supreme Soviet of the Union Requires Interpreters"]

[Text] On 22 October the lower chamber of the Union parliament—the Soviet of the Union—embarked on a discussion of the Standing Orders on the Formation of Joint Organs and the procedure for holding joint sittings of the chambers. The upper chamber—the Soviet of Republics—has broken off its work until 24 October.

There is no doubt that the most interesting thing for the absolute majority of deputies and journalists was the opening of one inconspicuous door in the building of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Or rather what was presented to their eyes. It turned out that behind the wall of the chambers' hall of sessions there is a special and little-known world finished with marble, decorated with fine crystal chandeliers, mirrors, stained glass windows, Karelian birch, and sumptuous carpets. Even the smoking room in this Kremlin land through the looking glass is furnished with chairs and divans covered in fine

leather. In the past this whole inner palace, invisible to the casual eye, was called the CPSU Central Committee hall of plenums. Henceforth this hall is the work place of members of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of Republics. Perhaps it was not worth devoting so much space to a description of this discovery. But really after acquainting themselves with this luxury many deputies understood without having it explained to them who was the country's real master in the period before August. And that the laws written by the Union parliamentarians did not touch and did not perturb those who for 70 years had not tired of speaking of social justice, modesty, and concern for the poor and homeless.

But morals and procedures in this little known part of the Kremlin have, it must be said, largely remained as they were before. Even after the Russian deputation which worked here this morning voted to allow journalists into this holy of holies of the CPSU, press representatives continued to be kept behind closed doors by powerfully built boys from the former KGB "Ninth Department." It turned out that the decision of the Union parliamentarians was not the main thing in this house. The blessing of the invisible leaders of the Kremlin guard was also required.

On the evening of 21 October at separate sittings of the chambers there was what at first glance seemed boring, routine work: There was a discussion of organizational questions and draft provisional standing orders. But behind all this there is serious and principled work on the definition of the concept of the renewed parliament. Here the foundation of the country's future Supreme Soviet is being formed. And the need for and usefulness of this state institution in the eyes of the sovereign republic-states of the former USSR will be largely determined by the extent to which this structure is strong and convincing.

At the first sitting of the Soviet of the Union, which took place under the chairmanship of B. Vasilyev, I. Laptev, the former chief of this chamber, addressed his colleagues. In surrendering his powers he thanked the deputies for their cooperation—not always easy but comradely. He urged that the accumulated experience be used sensibly and that there should be no rush to part with what has been sensible and constructive. I. Laptev thanked those colleagues who are again ready to nominate him for the post of chairman, but stated quite clearly that in the new realities and with the new composition of the chamber it should be headed by new people. Members of the Soviet of the Union received this address with understanding and applauded as they thanked I. Laptev for his work in this lofty post.

Who will be Ivan Laptev's successor in the Soviet of the Union? It is difficult and perhaps somewhat premature to answer this question exactly (voices were heard urging that there should be no haste in electing the speaker of the chamber until the Ukraine has sorted out its position with the deputation). Nonetheless let us say that the Russian deputation at its organizational sitting voted to nominate to this post Konstantin Lubenchenko, who has already taken part in the battle for the chairman's seat on four occasions.

The members of the Soviet of the Union spent four hours discussing and adopting the provisional ruling of the chamber. There was no time left for other questions. That is why, in order to catch up with their colleagues from the Soviet of Republics, they will have to work 22 October.

The activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of Republics generated very close attention from observers on the first day of the session's work. And that is natural—after all it is a case of what is essentially an absolutely new structure of the union parliament—a chamber which, it has been proclaimed, should become a truly upper and independent chamber. Actually, questions arose mainly in connection with the scheme for the adoption of decisions on the principle of one republic, one vote. With the republics' representation in parliament as it exists today the concern looks legitimate: Will the result not be that in the Soviet of Republics, for instance, Central Asian deputations, joining together, will acquire a majority and be able to dictate their own rules of play to Russia and Belorussia? Many deputies in the corridors of the session responded all the more sharply to the Ukraine's nonparticipation in the parliament's work. Ultimately it was this factor which became one reason why the Soviet of Republics decided, after the end of the first day of the session's work, to announce a two-day intermission. In the hope that on 22 October the Ukraine will give a specific answer to this urgent question. In what turned out to be a vain hope, since literally immediately after the end of the sitting it became known that the Ukrainian parliament has moved the hearing of the question of participation in the USSR Supreme Soviet to 24 October.

At the same time it should not be forgotten, and this was mentioned several times at the chamber's session, that the mechanism for the work of the Soviet of Republics initially included a principle designed to defend a republic's interests against the diktat of the majority. Decisions on very important constitutional questions are taken only through the attainment of consensus. So far, naturally, there has been no cause to check how far this principle, for all the obvious need for it, will make it possible to reach general agreement and how much time will be spent on this agreement. But the first day of the work of the new parliamentary chamber showed that the Soviet of Republics has coped with its task—the approval of the provisional standing orders—far more promptly than the Soviet of the Union.

Most serious debates developed over a question specific to this chamber: around the republican deputies' right to speak in their native language. The draft standing orders suggested that this right be granted to deputies from each Union republic on condition that they give prior warning to the secretariat so that there is time to prepare an interpreter. And ultimately it was established that the

opportunity to speak in their native language should be granted to representatives of the former union republics and the autonomous republics. And without any prior notification. How the Supreme Soviet apparatus will resolve this task enshrined in legislation is evidently its problem.

As a whole the Soviet of Republics sitting confirmed the impression left after the morning joint sitting of the session: The deputies are by no means inclined toward self-dissolution. Rather the opposite, the members of the upper chamber, in contrast to their colleagues from the Soviet of the Union, did not consider it necessary to enter into long disputes about various subtleties of the standing orders. Calls were repeatedly heard in the hall to complete organizational activity as rapidly as possible and finally embark on real work—lawmaking.

Azerbaijani Deputy Criticizes Gorbachev's Speech

PM2310141191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Oct 91 p 2

[R. Guseynov "Contentious Opinion": "M. Gorbachev Is Late Again"]

[Text] This is the view of Republic of Azerbaijan People's Deputy R. Guseynov, a member of the delegation of Azerbaijani observers at the USSR Supreme Soviet. In an interview with a PRAVDA correspondent on the day the new Union parliament session opened, he stated:

Gorbachev's speech was clearly prepared by the same people who also wrote his "pre-Foros" speeches. Here too we have promises of goodies for those who sign the economic agreement, and threats for those who are disobedient.

Gorbachev's indignation at the republics' desire to establish national armies and their wish to get their share of the weapons has come too late. As is well known, Azerbaijan was an active opponent of establishing illegal armed formations and supported the decree to disband and disarm them.

However, since these formations, armed moreover from smashed army and militia arsenals, have been set up in neighboring republics and have been engaging in active operations, the issue of establishing self-defense forces in Azerbaijan has become vitally necessary. Moreover, equality should be observed in such a fundamental question. After all, the Russian national guard, so the leaders of this republic have stated, is being formed on the basis of an ultramodern subunit like the Dzerzhinskiy Division. Why then should we arm our volunteers with Berdan rifles?

Deputies Discuss Work of Session

LD2310231791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 23 Oct 91

[USSR Supreme Soviet members T.Tyurina and N. Travkin interviewed by correspondent Andrey Pishchayev in Moscow on 23 October—recorded, from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer A. Gurnov] The country's supreme legislative organ continues to sit in the Kremlin. In the view of many deputies, their task now is to find work for themselves in order to finish their period of service. One of the variants is to set up as many commissions as possible. Indeed, and can there be a productive session of a parliament in which only seven republics are taking part? This is what is being said in the corridors.

[Pishchayev] Quite recently the parliament of the Union was named very precisely the aggressive-obedient majority. What is the new composition of parliament like and how do you assess the work of the past two days of the session of the Supreme Soviet of the Union?

[Tyurina] On the whole here already different people have been elected. I should say that I would like people with various views to be represented in parliament, that people should be selected, nevertheless, with more or less such new, I would say, views of a democratic tendency. As to how work and debates are proceeding now, well I believe that on the whole the work of any organ, including of parliament, is normal. We are now talking about security, we are talking about the armed forces—of course, all this is necessary, the more so as, after all, our armed forces are unified. All the same there must be someone to deal with this.

[Travkin] In my view the parliament has not understood its new quality and the new task which it is facing. The Supreme Soviet is in the same channel of thinking as existed under Lukyanov: That it is some authoritative organ, that something depends on it, as though the Union exists in yesterday's form. If politically the Union takes place and the state is formed on the basis of yesterday's Union, then a new law on elections is needed and the fact itself of the elections of a new parliament will take place. Hence the main task, the only task for these people will be writing this law on elections.

Gathered here are people who understand the need for the creation of a new, voluntary economically advantageous union. Our task is to convince the people of those republics who are wavering. And honestly speaking, we have fulfilled our function as provisional Supreme Soviet. We could on the whole do without it and make do only with the State Council because each president at the State Council has checked his proposal and view with his own parliament and it is not necessary to maintain this expensive organ.

Yakovlev, Alekseyev Discuss Proceedings

PM2210083791 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 Oct 91 p 1

[TASS-SELSKAYA ZHIZN-attributed report by V. Raskin and K. Shcheglov: "USSR Supreme Soviet First Session: Reference Point—the Renewed Union"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] "The new parliament is destined to survive. I am sure of it," A.N. Yakovlev, member of the USSR president's Political Consultative Council, emphasized. "The signing of the Economic Community Treaty and the very situation that has taken shape in the country today will face or, more accurately, have already faced legislators with the pressing need to make the transition, at last, from talk to action. Moreover, the parliament will certainly be supplemented—the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and some other republics will, I believe, delegate their representatives to it. Circumstances and life itself will make them do so. We have no other future."

Our second interview was with S.S. Alekseyev, chairman of the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee. Here is his assessment of the start of the first session's work: The morning sitting does not yet provide any grounds for conclusions, and it is obviously premature to try to make any assessments or inferences now. The only noteworthy thing has been the president's restrained but quite well-reasoned speech. All the rest will come later, as it were.

We also asked Sergey Sergeyevich whether the committee which he heads will remain in the legislative power structure.

"For the time being, yes. Although, as the Union has been reshaped, our committee must also change accordingly. And this is a matter for the quite near future."

In conclusion we asked Sergey Sergeyevich to express his viewpoint on the president's speech, which he had just heard. This was his reply:

"It was geared, above all, to the renewed Union which is taking shape. Notice that there was not even a hint of any preaching or admonition in it. It simply designated—and quite clearly—the landmarks by which we must all check our destiny."

And the final point. Draft temporary standing orders have been prepared. They contain provisions necessary for the work of the first session stemming from the law "On USSR Organs of State Power and Management in the Transitional Period," adopted by the Congress of USSR People's Deputies, and a summary of the work experience of the sovereign republics' parliaments and the Union parliament of the preceding convocation.

Political & Social

Intelligence Coordination Council Established

LD2510023791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2233 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—The text of a decree issued by the president of the USSR was released here on Thursday in which it is stated that the Coordination Council of the USSR KGB (formed by decree of the USSR president on 11 September) is being transformed into the Coordination Council of the Interrepublican Security Service in connection with the reorganization of the state security bodies.

The decree establishes that the members of the Coordination Council will be the leader of the Interrepublican Security Service, the director of the USSR Central Intelligence Service, and leaders of the security bodies of the sovereign republics (states). The Coordination Council determines the procedure for its activities and its decisions will be implemented by order of the leader of the Interrepublican Security Service.

The decree was signed by Mikhail Gorbachev on Thursday.

Bakatin Says Republics Prepare Security Accords

OW2510142091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday, October 28, Moscow is to see a meeting of the Inter-Republican Security Service's [IRSS] Coordinating Council (successor to the ex-KGB Collegium) that will discuss the conclusion of provisional agreements between the IRSS and the corresponding republican services.

The IRSS chief Vadim Bakatin has told journalists that all the ex-Soviet republics except Georgia and Azerbaijan are seeking security agreements with the center. An appropriate agreement with Armenia is already being drafted.

An agreement of this kind was signed yesterday with the Ukraine, providing, among other things, for cooperation in counterintelligence, anti-terror and anti-drug action and the protection of installations in the defense sector, nuclear power industry, etc.

Mr. Bakatin indicated he did not expect the republics to engage in espionage against each other in the future.

"Neighborliness and cooperation are objective necessities for us," Bakatin said, and added that it was with this goal in mind that the republican security agencies should conclude agreements to be later replaced with intergovernmental treaties.

KGB Reorganization Mostly Complete

LD2410164391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1455 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)—Vadim Bakatin, head of the former USSR KGB, has reported that the first stage in the disintegration of the KGB has, for the most part, been completed. Addressing journalists today at his office in the Lubyanka, he noted that nevertheless several issues still remain to be cleared up: The status of the military intelligence service remains unresolved, and there is a possibility of various technical services being separated off.

The USSR State Council adopted a resolution on abolishing the USSR KGB on 22 October. On the basis of the Union Committee and with the rights of the central bodies of USSR state administration, the USSR Central Intelligence Service, the Committee for the Protection of the USSR State Borders, and the combined command of the border forces and the inter-republican security service have been set up.

According to Vadim Bakatin, two months ago there were about 490,000 people working for the Central Security Service. In a few days time, there should be between 35-40,000 left in the new department.

KGB Personnel Reduced by 240,000

OW2510041491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vadim Bakatin, the head of the Inter-Republican Security Service (ISS), announced in an interview with Soviet journalists on Thursday, that over the last two months KGB membership has fallen from 490,000 to 35-40,000 people. This, he said, was the number of staff, following the State Council's decision to reorganise the KGB, now working in the central security apparatus.

The State Council's decision divides the KGB into three independent structures: the intelligence service, the inter-republican security service and the border guard.

According to Mr. Bakatin's statistics:

Membership was reduced by 240,000 because of the separation of the border guard;

12-15,000 were transferred to the independent intelligence service;

90,000 officers working "on the periphery" in the republican branches of the KGB no longer come under the jurisdiction of the central KGB;

10,000 people have been transferred to the central Russian KGB system;

As a result of the separation of the communications service and the so-called "Ninth Department" (the department assigned to protect senior party and state figures—"IF"[INTERFAX]) from the KGB "60,000 military personnel and 25,000 other staff have been lost".

Mr. Bakatin was unable to answer questions about the number of KGB intelligence officers, saying that he did not know the exact figures. In any case, he added, "we are not talking about millions".

He noted that in the new conditions the intelligence services should change the content of their work and abandon "Chekist principles" and "searches for enemies".

He defined the basic thrusts of the ISS's activity as counter-intelligence and the fight against crime (terrorism, drugs and corruption).

Mr. Bakatin spoke in favour of cooperation with the corresponding services of Western countries and announced that a delegation headed by a representative of the ISS leadership, Myasnikov, would soon be leaving for the United States where it would visit the FBI and the CIA

Bakatin 'Demolition' of 'Old Monster' Viewed

PM2410210991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Oct 91 p 6

[V. Andreyev report: "V. Bakatin: No More Surveillance of Dissidents"]

[Text] As the reader knows, the KGB ceased to exist the moment the State Council adopted the resolution on the disbandment of the powerful system and the establishment of three independent departments on its basis: Central Intelligence Service, Interrepublic Security Service (MSB), and Border Troops. The government communications service, the protection service, the well-known "Alfa" antiterrorist group, and several others have been removed from the KGB's charge. The reforms started by V. Bakatin are continuing. In the future military intelligence and the technical service will detach themselves from the MSB.

Now let us look at some recent secrets. Prior to reorganization, the KGB had nearly 500,000 employees. If you deduct from this number the services that have become separate, you are left with 35,000-40,000 employees in the central security service.

It is hard to tell whether this is too many or too few. But no matter how we regard this department, there is not a single state that manages without special services, and their elimination is not expected in the foreseeable future. Moreover, the present situation in the country and in the world is suggesting new areas of work for the special services. In particular, the fight against terrorism and drugs, although V. Bakatin gave top priority to a new area for his special service: the fight against corruption.

I doubt whether anyone needs to be told that we have a headstart on some countries in terms of this phenomenon.

But the new leader of the MSB (apparently, that is what the post will be called henceforth), a democrat by persuasion, believes that the reforms in his department are not simply a relabeling, but the total dismantling of a Chekist ideology that was cultivated for years. Virtually the entire activity of the Cheka was based all those years on legally binding (departmental) acts and was accountable to virtually no one. Now V. Bakatin's plans include the creation of a powerful system of legal safeguards for the activities of the new special services.

But there is no doubt that they will be new. Even now agreements are being concluded on horizontal links between the central service and republic bodies. Instead of the KBG Collegium, which used to keep its subordinate components under tight control, a Coordination Council has been set up, and its members—heads of republic organs—will be independent. The new chief's plans include the formation of a public council, comprising some of the country's best minds, as well as tight parliamentary control.

Of course, it would be naive to suppose that the department would be left with no secrets. There will be secrets, but the service is already shedding its surplus secrets. That is one of V. Bakatin's principles. But the demolition of the old monster is geared in his mind to one simple aim: To prevent any future threat to democracy through concentration of power in one place. Perhaps that would be a legal guarantee of advancement toward a civilized state.

Even here it is difficult to separate security chief Bakatin from the politician Bakatin, who believes in the intelligence of the peoples of the erstwhile superpower, the USSR, and fervently hopes that we will survive the difficult period and a renewed Union of equal free states will remember the words "fraternal friendship and cooperation." We are destined to be good friends, he believes. That kind of destiny I like.

Council of Republican Interior Ministers Planned

LD2410215791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Republican interior ministers have met In the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD]. Today, when Union structures are falling apart, the MVD remains one of the few structures which retains its status and functions. There is every reason for that.

Having gathered in Moscow, the interior ministers of all sovereign republics have been forced to state that the crime situation in the country is critical and unprecedented, especially in the regions of interethnic conflicts. Criminals are acting impertinently and, in effect, with impunity. Up to two-thirds of burglaries and thefts remain undetected. Up to 60 percent of the staff working in administrative structures are enmeshed in the corruption network. Every other deal in the private and the cooperative sector is criminal in nature. Thieves, murderers, and terrorists have no limits. You can only fight them together.

This is why the MVD will now be organized. Its task will be not to administer but to coordinate work in the republics.

[Begin USSR Interior Minister V.P. Barannikov recording] A decision has been adopted to create an interrepublican council of the interior ministers of all republics. In November, the State Council will consider what we have worked out in the last month. By the beginning of 1992 we must already have a fresh structure which will work in a new way and which will have been confirmed by the State Council. We must embark on this work immediately. There is no time for getting into our stride. [end recording]

Republics Favor Keeping USSR Interior Ministry

OW2510050991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The interior ministers of the sovereign republics at their regular meeting in Moscow have basically accepted the conception of a central interior ministry. According to the head of the USSR Interior Ministry's public relations centre, Colonel Andrey Chernenko, the meeting attended by all the ministers except Lithuania's was unanimous about a need for such a central body as an effective guarantee against crime.

The final decision rests now with politicians, stressed Chernenko.

The presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan have also spoken out in support of a central interior ministry.

20 Percent Personnel Cut Seen

LD2410194191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 24 October. (TASS)—Heads of the internal affairs ministries of the sovereign republics consider it necessary that the Union Internal Affairs Ministry should be preserved. However, its personnel will be reduced by no less than 20 percent, largely at the expense of bureaucratic structures. This was stated today by Viktor Barannikov, minister of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry, at a conference of the heads of internal affairs ministries of sovereign republics.

Colonel Chernenko, head of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry public relations center, told a TASS correspondent that the dismantling of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry may lead to growth of inter-regional crime.

"The department is vital, otherwise we will be overwhelmed by a cruel wave of interethnic violence," he said.

State Council to Counsider Union Treaty 11 Nov

LD2410204691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1932 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krolikov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev has met participants in the international conference "Law and European Cooperation," which ended today in Moscow. Addressing Soviet and foreign lawyers, he noted that the entire world, not just the USSR, was now living through a crucial period of profound change.

Speaking about the role of the rule of law in this period of difficulty for the state, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that all those who started perestroyka had striven to avoid civil conflict and civil war.

Broaching the future of the sovereign republics, the head of the Soviet state voiced the conviction that other republics will also accede to the recently signed economic treaty.

The president announced that a variant of the Union treaty will be discussed on 11 November at a State Council session. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Western countries will show solidarity with the reforms being carried out in the USSR.

Kuplyakov Terms Republics Conference 'Success'

OW2310200491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1613 GMT 23 Oct 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The conference of representatives of the foreign ministries of eleven republics, held on October 22, was a success. One can speak about a qualitatively new stage in the relationships between their foreign ministries, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Department for the Union Republics, Yuriy Kuplyakov said. He told IF [INTERFAX] that at the last moment, the conference was joined by the representative of Azerbaijan and that the Moldovan delegate did not take part in the conference at all, although earlier Kishinev had sent in an application [sentence as received]. Yuriy Kuplyakov said that the Moldovan representative might have failed to get to Moscow because of the absence of air tickets in Kishinev. Earlier, Moldova had informed Moscow about problems in reserving air tickets. (According to DP's [Diplomatic Panorama's] sources, the Moldovan representative did arrive in Moscow but did not take part in the conference for objective reasons.)

Mr. Kuplyakov confirmed that the conference put the main accent on the entire spectrum of Soviet-American relations and on the two countries' initiatives in nuclear disarmament. He noted that these initiatives had been fully approved by representatives of the sovereign republics. He said the discussion was matter-of-fact and constructive.

Mr. Kuplyakov believes that a good beginning has been laid for further coordinated efforts of the Union and the republics "in the American direction". From now onwards, the interests of the republics will be adequately taken into consideration.

He also said that the future of the USSR Foreign Ministry was not discussed at the conference. In his opinion, much will become clear after the signing of the Union treaty and of the accompanying agreement on foreign-policy matters which will define the responsibilities of the Union ministry and the ministries of the Union republics.

Gorbachev Outlines View of 'Social Partnership'

AU2410151291 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 22 Oct 91 pp 1, 9

[Interview with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev by unsigned PRAVDA reporter; in Moscow on 21 October: "Workers Are Right"]

[Text] During the first fall meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet yesterday, accredited journalists met with the Soviet president at an improvised news conference. During this conference, President Gorbachev also answered questions by a PRAVDA reporter.

[PRAVDA] In your address you said that it was necessary to immediately conclude a treaty on social partnership. What does that mean, specifically?

[Gorbachev] We must be aware of the fact that during the transition to new forms of economic administration, the unavoidable changes will focus on destatization and privatization, which should accelerate the development of our economic system toward greater efficiency. This will apparently provoke certain tension, however, which could have serious social consequences. This is the logic of the transition to a market economy, irrespective of the fact whether we want it or not.

When I was preparing my speech I did not anticipate making the proposal to conclude an agreement on social partnership. Meeting with working collectives encouraged me to include it. Their opinion was: Yes, a transition to a market economy is necessary, but workers should be able to participate in the process. If not, they said an explosion may be imminent. I believe the workers are right.

[PRAVDA] What does your warning in your speech mean, that decisive constitutional measures will be taken against attempts to split the Soviet Army and "privatize" its weapons?

[Gorbachev] I reacted according to the situation. As president, I am responsible for the situation in the Soviet Armed Forces and I consider the attempts to split them illegal and contrary to the declaration adopted by the Congress of People's Deputies in September.

[PRAVDA] What is your opinion on the Ukrainian attitude toward the the current session of the renewed Soviet parliament?

[Gorbachev] I am convinced that the Ukrainian delegation will participate in the work of the Supreme Soviet. Many Ukrainian deputies participated in the first session.

Gorbachev, Yeltsin Urged to Abolish Crimea Act

OW2410142791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1200 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday, the leadership of the Constitutional Democratic Party urged the presidents of the USSR and Russia to immediately abolish as unconstitutional the 1954 Act on the transition of the Crimea under Ukrainian jurisdiction.

The message says that the decision as made without any consultations with the local population and is regarded in the Crimea as an example of an arbitrary administrative approach to ethnic issues

"The people of the Crimea regard the inaction of the central and republican leadership as treachery," the document says.

The party leadership believes that this encourages nationalist forces in the Ukraine to fan anti-Russian sentiments.

Constitutional Democrats believe that, after the independence referendum on December 1, the Ukrainian border will be recognized by the world community and the Union and Russia in the person of their present leaders will knowingly push away two million residents of the Crimea. "This can aggravate the political situation, specifically in Moscow, as far as etremist nationalist parties are concerned," Constitutional Democrats say.

Ligachev Denies Charges of Coup Involvement

PM2310172791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Interview with Yegor Ligachev by V. Rudnev on 22 October; place of interview not given; under general heading: "Investigation of the 'CPSU's Case' Goes Far Beyond the Confines of the Country. Yegor Ligachev Denies Involvement in the Putsch"]

[Text] Two hours after the publication of yesterday's edition of this newspaper (IZVESTIYA No. 252), which reported the [RSFSR] parliamentary hearings into the "CPSU case," we called Yegor Ligachev, former secretary of the party Central Committee, now retired.

[Rudnev] Yegor Kuzmich, according to the words of Aleksey Surkov, chairman of the commission for the investigation of the causes and circumstances of the coup d'etat, it has become known that information has been discovered in Tomsk about your involvement in the putsch...

[Ligachev] Yes, I have already heard these fabrications on the radio and read them in IZVESTIYA. Frankly speaking, I am amazed at the stereotype thinking of the new statesmen. If anything negative is discovered in Leningrad Romanov is guilty, if in Moscow, it is Grishin, and in Tomsk, of course, it is Ligachev. I have not been in that city for several years, and I simply cannot imagine what A. Surkov's commission could have dug up there. But I can tell you one thing for sure: No facts exist anywhere about my involvement in the putsch.

[Rudnev] Did you say putsch?

[Ligachev] How else can you describe the actions of a handful of conspirators who sent out tanks against the people and a lawfully elected president? I categorically reject this type of "gunboat policy."

[Rudnev] The aforementioned statement by A. Surkov mentions that you were intended for the post of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Is that also a fabrication?

[Ligachev] What sort of a general secretary would I make? I am over 70 now, my health is playing me up. Furthermore, I am not a member of the Central Committee. What the party needs is a young and energetic leader.

[Rudnev] It was also stated at the Russian parliament that the CPSU knew about the coup beforehand.

[Ligachev] People in our country like to speak for everyone. The CPSU is millions of people. There are different people among us. There are traitors too. I know one thing for certain: There were two men in the party who knew nothing about the plans of the future members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE]. They were Gorbachev and Ligachev.

[Rudnev] Have you been summoned by the commission?

[Ligachev] No.

[Rudnev] Or by the investigators of the SCSE case?

[Ligachev] Neither.

[Rudnev] In that case, do you intend to sue for slander of the CPSU?

[Ligachev] I have no time. I have only just completed my book *The Gorbachev Enigma.* There is much work as a deputy. In a few days' time I am flying to America at the invitation of five major universities—Harvard, Princeton... When I return, I will think about suing in defense of the CPSU. I have no intention of burying the ideas of communism as some people are doing. I believe in the future of our party.

Media & Journalism

'Nuclear Strike' Rumors Blamed on Media, Yeltsin

PM2510084091 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Stanislav Kondrashov article: "Canards With Nuclear Warheads"]

[Text] Democracy has freed our press and given it the opportunity to report everything without looking over its shoulder. But freedom has not removed but heightened the urgency of the question of the truthfulness and validity of what is written or said—the question of responsibility. This sense of civic responsibility should come higher than the professional fondness for sensationalism—even during the subscription campaign. Otherwise, as it says in the old workshop song, "journalists and scandalmongers are brothers..."

Otherwise newspaper canards take off. In recent days, they have been armed with nuclear warheads. Are they threatening us with the apocalypse for the sake of circulation figures? Or is it because of a lack of understanding of the subject to which they give the sensationalist treatment? The result is the same—rising panic in society, especially when no unequivocal explanations are forthcoming from one set of officials, while others exploit the canards for their own political ends...

To be more specific: A week ago, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI announced on the front page: "MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI has learned from an absolutely reliable source that last week, in the corridors of the Russian Government, the question of the possibility of an exchange of nuclear strikes between the independent Ukraine and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] was discussed." What?!

Boris Yeltsin refuted this report: "It is absolutely absurd. Technically—I have examined this question with the military—it is absolutely impossible." The refutation, published in IZVESTIYA, was obviously off the cuff and proved to have a flaw, since it left the possibility of this interpretation: Ah, but only technically... Technically—that can be fixed.

And this flaw was exploited by another official, Ukrainian First Vice Premier Konstantin Masyk. Here is his comment to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "If things have reached the point where they are threatening a preemptive nuclear strike against the Ukraine, which is still suffering the effects of Chernobyl, can you call that relations between civilized countries? They want to intimidate us and make us obedient, as we were for 73 years, when we signed everything they thrust at us." And so forth.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA put this on its front page under the heading "Yeltsin Discussed With the Military the Possibility of a Nuclear Strike Against the Ukraine..."

True, an exchange of nuclear strikes or a preemptive strike is absolutely absurd. Even in the context of all the other absurdities. And this forces us to enter into polemics with the two esteemed newspapers. A society already frightened at the prospect of a cold and hungry winter should not have to think that it may be a nuclear winter too.

But the explanation of what happened lies not only in the journalists' irresponsibility. Presidents are not entitled to say just anything off the cuff. Nor, alas, are their press services displaying true professionalism. Yet that is their field! They should be able to respond promptly, issuing clear refutations that leave no room for arbitrary interpretations. Instantaneously shooting down newspaper canards, especially, I repeat, those that have nuclear warheads.

'TV-Inform' Bid for Independence Viewed

PM2510143991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 91 First Edition p 8

[Yana Yurova report under the "Conflict" rubric: "'Vremya'—Farewell Or... Till We Meet Again?"]

[Text] What used to be Central Television's most diligent and obedient fledgling—the Studio of Information Programs or to, put it more simply, what used to be the "Vremya" program—recently announced its right to an independent voice.

A meeting of the labor collective decided almost unanimously to register the editorial office, renamed "TV-Inform," as an independent news medium with the collective itself as the founder. An open letter to the USSR president and the presidents of the sovereign states was drawn up, asking for support in the fight for independence.

There are difficult times in life. For example, when a remiss mother suddenly starts to reproach her own offspring one fine minute for his lack of education. What happens then? One option is for the aggrieved fledgling to spread its wings and leave home.

A similar situation has developed at the All-Union State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. The strict

mother hen went too far too often, guided by the strict education system, forgetting her own sins. And this is the result.

"We are constantly and critically told that the 'Vremya' program is to blame for the stagnation in society, and the collective is accused of conservatism and biased presentation of information," Aleksandr Goryanov, one of the ideological leaders of the rebellion and the program's chief editor, said. "Our program is even compared to the swastika. Moreover, the criticism sometimes comes from people who were themselves directly involved in producing the program at one time. In particular, Eduard Sagalayev, current general director of Central Television, who was head of the news service in the past.

"This is unfair; we have, after all, been raised on the same principles, so it is simply absurd to say what is better and what is worse. So, we now want to escape once and for all from any influence from above and from the need to carry out anyone else's orders. Only then will we be able to be fully answerable for our own actions. And that is the only chance we have of remaining on our feet."

Well, the grievances are understandable, and the desire to survive at such a difficult and what might be said to be crucial time for all Central Television is quite natural. But what spurred on such a major and, regrettably, by no means painless decision for both parties?

Radical changes are under way in the All-Union State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. An Information Television Agency has replaced the Studio of Information Programs. Changes are expected on the Moscow editorial staff. Of course, in that situation many people are overcome by fear at the thought of being kicked overboard after the storm of transformations.

I must say here that the "TV-Inform" program is an established [slozhivshiysya] collective with many superlative specialists. Despite everything, this program's rating is still high. The "Vremya" program was a major television school, whose cadres helped a program like "Vesti," for example, get off the ground.

It is here that a very significant problem is developing. If a thoughtless reform of Central Television begins, this may cause migration between the All-Union State Television and Radio Company and Russian Television. There will be a redistribution of creative cadres. However, it is not known whether that would benefit television.

Especially since the independence of which "TV-Inform" correspondents dream is extremely illusory. And what independence can there be at all? Under whose jurisdiction do the "Vremya" people not want to find themselves—Gorbachev, Yeltsin, Rutskoy, and other pillars of big-league politics?

Let us try to advance a few frames and imagine that the "TV-Inform" program has liberated itself from this dependent position. What then? The scenario is a simple one: Any rich beauty in the form of a system of stock exchanges or a system of banks that is itself dependent on the same politicians will disappoint the runaways. That is the end of all independence.

In this context, the following question involuntarily arises: Should the "TV-Inform" collective "rock the boat"? Especially since nothing monstrous is happening to the All-Union State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. Fears over the closure of the viewers' usual evening news program are absolutely unfounded. It will continue to air every day. The trained "Vremya" program will just somewhat breathe the air of democracy with chief editor Oleg Dobrodeyev's move from Russia's "Vesti" to the Information Television Agency.

As for independence, there must undoubtedly always be independence—it is called conscience. After all, if there is no independence at a personal level, it cannot exist on a global scale.

TASS Carries Press Review for 25 October

LD2510083891 Moscow TASS in English 0815 GMT 25 Oct 91

["Press Review"—Tass Headline]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA and TRUD frontpage reports about a meeting of solidarity in defence of social and economic rights of factory and office workers, held in the centre of the capital on the initiative of the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions. According to these newspapers which carry photos of the meeting, some 50,000 people took part in it. They demanded that the Russian parliament and government immediately adopt the law on the indexation of incomes and on setting the minimum wages, which should be no lower than the subsistence level, lift restrictions on wages and take some other economic measures. The newspapers describe the meeting as the "autumn offensive of trade unions."

TRUD carries an interview with Galina Starovoitova, deputy to the federal and Russian parliaments. She believes the democrats who came to power only late in August, this year, cannot be held responsible for the crisis in the country and the deterioration of living standards. She says that, according to her information, on October 28, the opening day of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, Boris Yeltsin "will come up with a new programme of radical economic reform." The Russian president will have to take some unpopular measures, specifically the liberalisation of prices, but this is the only way of transition to a normal and healthy economy, Starovoitova stresses.

TRUD publishes a sensational article about a "nuclear catastrophe that was kept secret." Nothing was said in mass media organs about the circumstances and scope of that catastrophe. A nuclear explosion involving the loss

of life took place six years ago at a nuclear-powered submarine, docked at a ship repair plant of the Soviet Defence Ministry, in the Chazhma Harbour, the Primorye region. The Shkotovo-22 township, where the plant is located, was a closed zone until recently. The problems of the people living actually in the radiation zone, were not mentioned either, writes the TRUD correspondent who visited the area.

PRAVDA carries a report about a meeting of Vadim Bakatin, a new head of the State Security Committee (KGB), and a large group of Soviet journalists. The newspaper uses as the headline of the report Bakatin's statement that "dissidents are no longer shadowed." The new head of the Inter-Republican Security Service (created to replace the KGB) is sure the reform in that institution goes far deeper than the change of the name. It is a "complete destruction of the Chekist ideology, that was cultivated for many years." Bakatin's plans include the creation of a solid legal foundation for the new security services.

The newspaper publishes an interview with Anatoliy Denisov, USSR people's deputy and one of the initiators of the creation of a massive party with a left-wing socialist orientation. Its constituent conference is planned to be held in Moscow on October 26-27. The new party, which will be one of the successors of the Soviet Communist Party, will include several groups upholding their ideological and theoretical views, Denisov said. He believes businessmen working in the production sector will play the key part in the current economic situation. In the opinion of Denisov, the support for private capital is quite compatible with socialist convictions.

Znaur Gassiyev, chairman of the Executive Committee of the South Ossetian Regional Council, writes in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA about a critical situation in South Ossetia (integrated in Georgia) and, specifically, in the city of Tskhinvali, its administrative centre. Every day it is brought under artillery fire by Georgian informal armed groups, which are supported by Georgian President Zviad Gamaskhurdia. The South Ossetian leader stressed that the main reason for the conflict is South Ossetia's desire to remain integrated in the Union, while Georgia wishes to stay away from it. Gassiyev urged Russian legislators to accept South Ossetia as part of Russia, which will enable it to reunite with North Ossetia.

Former officers and non-commissioned officers may join the most reactionary structures, gangs and forces taking part in inter-ethnic conflicts after being transferred to the reserve. The reason for it is their feeling of futility and an absolute lack of perspective, Viktor Minin, deputy to the federal parliament, says in an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. He is head of the group for social and economic support of servicemen, integrated in the commission of the federal parliament for working out a national security system. "Anyway, a possibility of a social explosion capable of sweeping away both democracy and the market-based system is quite real," he believes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries a commentary of the Institute of Physics of the Earth, which says the forecast circulated in the Chechen-Ingush republic on a possibility of a strong earthquake that may hit the area in the near future is groundless.

The newspaper publishes an article about the developments in the Belbek Airport, the Crimea, on August 21. It says Major General Romanenko, commander of the coastal units of the Black Sea Fleet, issued an order on those days to destroy the plane in which Aleksandr Rutskoy and Ivan Silayev were flying to Gorbachev, blocked in his country house in Foros.

SELSKAYA ZHIZN carries is report of the press centre of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture which says that "the forecast on harvesting 190 million tonnes of grain this year will not come true." The state purchased 38.5 million tonnes, which makes 50 per cent of the volume envisaged by the state order.

PRAVDA brings out today the first issue of the information bulletin of the Inter-republican Universal Commodity Exchange in Moscow under the heading Birzhevoe Delo (Stock Exchange Business). A two-page supplement carries information about the inter-republican exchange, prices of commodities and the founding capital, which amounts to 70 million roubles. Birzhevoe Delo is a supplement to PRAVDA and, at the same time, is an independent economic newspaper of the commodity exchange.

Economic

Budget Deficit Forecast at 300 Billion Rubles

LD2210152891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1031 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow 22 October (TASS)—The deficit in the USSR's budget system this year could amount to 300 billion rubles, the weekly PRAVITELSTVENNIY VESTNIK [Government Herald] reports today. In order to reduce the deficit, the newspaper says, the USSR Gosbank [State Bank] is to allocate to the USSR Ministry of Finance credits amounting to 30 billion rubles "to finance current expenditure." At the same time, specialists are of the opinion that "it is necessary to change the taxation system and to introduce a system of excise duties," which would make it possible to bring another 100-120 billion rubles into the Union budget. The sale to Soviet and foreign entrepreneurs of a number of factories totalling 150 billion rubles is also planned.

Food Procurement Official Notes Cuts in Imports

LD2510093791 Moscow TASS in English 0912 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS Correspondent Andrey Troitskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—As the new Soviet Government unsuccessfully tries to eliminate shortages of goods and food in the country, Soviet people have been advised to tighten their belts and count on their own reserves.

The Soviet Union's food imports have dropped from 12 billion to 11 billion roubles in 1990 and continue to fall.

"Sovereign states forming the country's economic space, like any developed country, have to import coffee, cocoa, tea, citrus fruits and vegetables. The shortage of hard currency has forced us to cut imports to eight billion roubles in 1992, including raw sugar by 25 per cent and vegetable oil by 33 per cent. Meat supplies will not be affected," Viktor Akulinin, first deputy head of the Soviet Committee for Food Procurement, told TASS.

The country will also have to import grain to supply bakeries, poultry and cattle farms.

Winter Transportation Issues Examined

LD2310184191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR National Economy today examined the functioning of transportation in winter, concluding that it will be impossible to stabilize the functioning of this branch of industry through harsh administrative measures alone. It was decided during today's sitting to widen the implementation of measures of market economic character alongside these measures. Thus, in the next six months, privatization and the turning of enterprises into shareholding ventures will be implemented on a large scale in the transportation complex. During today's committee sitting, the question of raising the tariffs on coastal freight transportation by sea transport was also studied.

Silayev Emphasizes Price Liberalization

LD2410203191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1854 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct. (TASS) The chairman of the USSR Interrepublican Economic Committee [IEC], who resigned from the post of Russian prime minister, thinks that the question of the liberalization of prices must now be tackled, but they cannot simply be "set free". "That will do no one any good while the shelves in the shops are empty," he declared in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

Ivan Silayev announced that in mid-November it was planned to present to the country's State Council with a precise plan of action on price liberalization. During the forthcoming reform, in the view of the IEC chairman, more active use will have to be made of the support of the world community and credits.

In order to resolve the problem of supplying the country with food next year, Ivan Silayev said, great importance will attach to the "food" treaty that has already been signed by most republican heads of government. The document spells out realistic procurements of grain, meat, milk and other basic foods. The food agreement not only defines our country's internal possibilities, but also the prospects for food purchases abroad. According to Ivan Silayev, active work is now taking place with Western partners: Beginning Saturday, meetings are planned with financiers from the "big seven." Heads of governments, finance ministers and bankers from the sovereign republics have been invited to attend.

Commenting on the topic of the granting of concessions to Japan, which was raised during the visit to the USSR of Eiichi Nakao, Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ivan Silayev said that "the Soviet Union is ready to cooperate with everyone who would like, for a certain time, to jointly exploit our resources not in the form of a concession, but in a form of partnership." Moreover, in his view, the share of the participation of foreign capital may amount to 90 percent, while that of domestic capital could be 10 percent or even less.

Gavrilov on Interrepublican Economic Committee

OW2410053991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2130 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Igor Gavrilov, a member of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy (caretaker government) of the USSR, said that the structure of the Interrepublic Economic Committee (IEC) that is being established under the Treaty on the Economic Community will be discussed by republican representatives in early November. Members of the IEC, which will come to replace the USSR Council of Ministers, will be appointed by presidential decree. Thus far, the only appointee to the cabinet is its chairman Ivan Silayev.

Mr. Gavrilov said that cardinal strategic decisions would be the responsibility of a council of government heads, and the IEC will perform coordinating and executive functions as the immediate implementer of these decisions. Key issues of economic policy will be decided by a conference of republican ministers.

Yasin Interviewed on Foreign Debt, Banking

OW2510135191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1126 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Interview with Yevgeniy Yasin, leading economist, and coordinator of the working groups on agreements under the Treaty on Economic Union, by Aleksandr Blokhin; date and place not given; from "Nation & Society" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

Who Will Pay the USSR Foreign Debt

Blokhin [hereafter, A.B.]: Where does our national foreign debt stand now?

Y.Yasin: At about 60 billion [currency not specified]. And we are constantly raising new credits, the debt is growing.

A.B.: How far have our exports fallen this year?

Y.Y.: Approximately by 23-24%, and imports by 5%. There's no way we can pay off our debts. Cutting imports only undermines our production reducing still further our export potential.

A.B.: The session in Bangkok actually demanded this country should have a single bank administering all foreign debt...

Y.Y.: Yes, and that should be made clear to all the republics. Our entire community as the successor of the old Union will have to bear all its debts. If some republics secede from the community or refuse to join it, all the same - the debt falls on the entire community, and those republics will be its debtors then. This is what's written in the treaty. But this is yet a declaration, a general principle. It should be used as a basis for difficult work in reaching an agreement on a concrete mechanism of its implementation. We ought to consider from three to five possible variants and choose the best one.

A.B.: What variant of stabilization is to your liking?

Y.Y.: None of them are ideal, but I would rather keep things as they are now to speed up convertibility of the rouble. That will, unfortunately, require from the republics even greater self-denial, since they will need large centrallized reserves to support the rouble's rate. That would solve the problem. If we achieve convertibility with a tolerable rate of about 10-12 roubles per dollar, enterprises will have a chance of survival, they will be able to buy foreign exchange for needed imports without trying to grab some of their foreign exchange earnings. That would be a reasonable and civilized way out, but it requires a whole programme of reforms - macroeconomic stabilization and liberalization. We'll have to create an infrastructure of a currency market, so that you could buy and sell foreign exchange in any city, we must also build up a reserve. That's the hardest part. To keep up a viable rouble rate - some 10-12 to a dollar - we have to sell about 15 bn dollars on the market. From our traditional point of view that's nonsense - all sorts of shadow operators would gobble up that currency for they certainly have plenty of roubles. But what of it? That dollar supply on the market would work immediately by boosting the rate of the rouble. That would give our factories new confidence that if they are let down by the State Committee for Supplies, they can buy dollars and get what they need on the world market. That would really unclog the blood vessels of our economy. But at present the best we can do is sell only 3-4 bn dollars, even that is quite difficult.

A.B.: If we could get those needed 15-20 bn dollars, how soon would we achieve internal convertibility of the rouble?

Y.Y.: By the end of 1992, I think. With the agreement of the republics and with mighty energetic action, though I doubt they would agree.

A.B.: What new banking and financial structure shall we now have? The old State Bank is no more, what's to replace it? All central, national, or state banks of the member-republics, with a board of that Union. The board will be formed by the republics on a professional basis to be independent of either central or republics' governments. Responsible - yes, but independent, mind you. It should include experts of extra class. I would invite a few foreign ones of such a level who could teach us how to live and work. Then the board could take key decisions with respresentatives of the central banks. They would proceed from the current situation, and the banks would implement the adopted policies.

A.B.: Will all this be included in the agreement?

Y.Y.: By all means. The key points are stipulated by the treaty.

A.B.: And what will be the function of the State Bank?

Y.Y.: The USSR State Bank borrowed from foreign countries, so it can't be closed till the new banking union is created as its successor, in keeping with all the international norms, of which all the creditors will be duly notified. So, no announcements of the State Bank's closure should be made - it might cost us $5 bn. It's known on the world market credits were given to the State Bank and Vnesheconombank - that's serious, the interests of our creditors are to be protected.

A.B.: Would you say that the tide has turned in the republics' economic relations from separatism to cooperation?

Y.Y.: Yes, I think so. Those presidents who have signed the Treaty on Economic Union showed wisdom and political responsibility.

It's hard to predict the future, since the treaty only began the process of civilizing our economic relations. I can't say how precisely that process will turn out. All things are possible, but let's hope for political will to bring it to a logical conclusion.

Most essential is the position of Russia. If it works actively in preparing the agreements, promoting its interests, seeking acceptable compromises, it will set a good example to other republics. They will have to reckon with it. But if Russia acts differently, the whole process will be in doubt.

Oil Export Organization To Become Independent

OW2510045391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Soyuzneftexport, the major Soviet external trade organisation which until recently has held a monopoly on the export of oil and oil products, has announced its transformation into an independent Russian oil company "Nafta Moskva". In an interview with an "INTERFAX" correspondent the president of the company announced that the decision had been taken unanimously at a staff meeting on Wednesday. "Nafta Moskva" is a closed joint stock company.

Soyuznefteport, which employed about 250 people in Moscow and other Soviet ports and dozens of Soviet and foreign staff in daughter companies abroad, will supply about 80 million tonnes of oil and oil products for export in 1991 (roughly 90% of the total volume of exports expected from the USSR).

In a press release, the former Soyuznefteport company declared that the new firm was prepared to "fulfil tasks stemming from international agreements" and forge agreements for the export of oil and oil products with both state and private enterprises. The company president announced that "Nafta Moskva's" commissions will be "minimal".

"Nafta Moskva", declaring itself to be the successor of Soyuznefteport, also stated that it was "prepared to cooperate with other sovereign states and republics" and announced its intention to become involved "on a long-term basis" in projects in Russia and other states

Agricultural

Crop Harvest Totals Down From 1990 Figures

PM2510115991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 91 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Country Panorama" rubric: "They Reckoned Up and Shed a Few Tears"]

[Text] According to operational data as of 21 October, the harvesting of grain and pulse crops in the country is practically complete. Grain crops from 95 million hectares have been threshed—which is 93 percent of the crop area. Precisely 156.3 million tonnes of grain have been threshed. Last year the total was 217.8 million tonnes. The average yield stands at 16.5 quintals per hectare—5.5 quintals below last year's level.

Precisely 38.5 million tonnes of grain have been purchased for state resources, or 50 percent of the state order. The figure by this date last year was 64.8 million tonnes. The state order has been fulfilled by just 11 oblasts in the Russian Federation, six in Belarus, and four in Kazakhstan.

Potatoes have been lifted in full. The yield amounted to 99 quintals per hectare—six quintals less than in 1990.

The harvesting of sugar beets is being completed. Some 47 million tonnes of root crops have been procured. Precisely 2,636,000,000 tonnes of sugar have been produced.

Vegetables have been harvested from an area of 715,000 hectares. This is 85,000 hectares less than last year.

Since the beginning of the season 6,707,000,000 tonnes of raw cotton have been procured (90 percent of the plan).

Precisely 256,700 tonnes of flax fiber have been purchased. The figure last year was 170,000 tonnes.

Precisely 107.3 million tonnes of coarse and succulent feed, in terms of feed units, have been laid in store—which is 21 million tonnes less than last year.

Further on Decline

OW2510101691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2046 GMT 24 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report;" transmitted via KYODO"]

[Text] Grain harvesting was nearly over in the USSR on October 21, said the State Statistics Committee. Soviet state and collective farms had sown 95 mn. ha to grain crops and had produced 156.3 mn. tons of grain (maize not accounted for), or 61.5 mn. tons less than on the same date last year. Last year's total grain harvest was 236 mn. tons.

Harvesting has not yet been done on 1 mn. ha, chiefly in East Siberia, an area that is already under snow. For a host of reasons, farms have not been able to harvest grain at an area of 6 mn. ha.

As of October 21, the state had bought 35.8 mn. tons of grain, or half the target figure of the state order for 1991, including 21.1 mn. tons in Russia (as against 33 mn. tons on the same date in 1990), 10.8 mn. in the Ukraine (14.7 mn. on the same date last year) and 3 mn. in Kazakhstan (13.6 mn. on the same date last year).

Harvest Forecast Unfulfilled

PM2510105991 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 25 Oct 91 p 1

[USSR Ministry of Agriculture and Food Press Center report: "Forecasts and Reality"]

[Text] According to current figures, as of 21 October the harvest of grain and pulse crops had been virtually completed except for individual regions of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]. Grain crops have been threshed on 95 million hectares and on 56.3 million in the RSFSR. Considering that part of the crops perished in the summer period, grain crops still had to be harvested from an area of about 1 million hectares—mainly in Siberia.

Some 156.3 million tonnes of grain have been threshed from the harvested area. The average yield has been 16.5 quintals per hectare. It is already possible to say definitely that the forecast of a harvest of 190 million tonnes of grain will not be fulfilled. An error by the forecasters? Perhaps the result of all kinds of material and technical disorders in the harvesting regions?

In all, 38.5 million tonnes, or 50 percent of the amount envisaged by the state order, have been purchased for state stocks. Three-quarters of the threshed grain is on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes and at interfarm enterprises.

Sunflowers have been harvested from an area of 3.9 million hectares—87 percent of the sown area. The average yield is 13.1 quintals of seeds per hectare. The state has been sold 3.1 million tonnes of the oil seeds—64 percent of the state order.

The sugar beet harvest is coming to an end. Some 48 million tonnes of this root crop have been procured and 24.5 million tonnes have been processed. Some 2.6 million tonnes of sugar have been produced—nearly 200,000 tonnes less than by this date last year.

Potatoes have been completely lifted and 99 quintals have been obtained from each hectare.

Vegetables have still not been harvested from a little over 20 percent of the sown area. The harvest is 141 quintals per hectare.

Since the start of the season 6.7 million tonnes of raw cotton have been procured—90 percent of the plan—including 768,000 tonnes of fine-fiber cotton—86 percent.

Some 256,700 tonnes of flax fiber—86 percent of the state order—have been purchased. Let us note that last year 170,000 tonnes had been purchased by the same date. The farms of the Ukraine have fulfilled the state order 104 percent, those of Belarus 97 percent, and those of the RSFSR 68 percent.

Feed procurement has been 13.6 quintals of feed units per standard head of livestock, which is 2.3 quintals less than last year.

Scientific

Gorizont Communications Satellite Launched

LD2410092391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0905 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)—In accordance with the program for the further development of the system of communications and television broadcasting using artificial earth satellites, the latest Gorizont communications satellite was launched on a Proton carrier rocket from the Baykonur cosmodrome in the Soviet Union on Wednesday.

The satellite was put into close to stationary orbit with the initial parameters of: distance from the earth's surface—36,003 km; period of revolution around the earth—24 hours 7 minutes; orbital inclination - 1.4 degrees.

The apparatus aboard the Gorizont satellite is working normally.

The cordinating and computing center is in control of the satellite. The communications and television apparatus on the satellite will be used in accordance with the set program.

Military

Defense Ministry Spokesman Holds Briefing

Armed Forces Reduction

OW2510001891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Service in the Soviet Armed Forces on a contract basis may be introduced as early as next year, the head of the Information Department of the Soviet Defence Ministry, Lt. Gen. Valeriy Manilov, said at a briefing today. One would be able to go to a military school for six months and then sign a three- to five-year contract. One's monthly pay would in that case be between 400 and 600 rubles. The contract may afterwards be extended, in which case the pay will be raised and free accommodation given to one's family.

In five to seven years' time, Gen. Manilov said, some two thirds of Soviet servicemen would be serving on this basis.

The numerical strength of the Soviet Armed Forces will in the near future be reduced from the present 3.7 to 3 million. "There may be further reductions if the other side does the same," the general said to an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent.

From this autumn onwards one will not be enlisted for military service unless completely healthy. The USSR

defence minister has recently issued an order in accordance with which 26,000 men who were previously listed as fit only for certain duties have been exempted from national service altogether.

On the eve of this autumn's call-up the USSR Defence Ministry sent its delegations to all former Soviet republics, except the Baltic ones, which reached agreements on call-up quotas with the governments of these republics.

The ministry has also drafted a bill on the status of a serviceman and worked out suggestions for the organisation of alternative forms of national service and proposed that amnesty be granted to those who have deserted because of bullying.

Better Conditions for Conscripts

LD2410151891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] A briefing organized by the USSR Ministry of Defense was held in Moscow today for Soviet and foreign journalists. Lieutenant General Manilov, chief of the Information Directorate, spoke of the proposals the Ministry had prepared to reinforce the social and legal protection of servicemen. It is proposed to set up a public organization to assist servicemen; to reduce the service length to 18 months, from next year; and to stop conscripting those who are fit only for non-line service.

Apart from this it is proposed to disband the military construction units which belong to civilian departments, to introduce alternative service, to grant amnesty to those soldiers who left their units as a result of conduct in breach of regulations, and to introduce a system of contracts for those who want to serve on a professional basis.

In Manilov's words, these proposals have received the support of the State Council and the president, and it is now up to the Supreme Soviet.

Black Sea Commander I. Kasatonov Interviewed

PM2410153791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Oct 91 p 1

[Interview with Vice Admiral I. Kasatonov, new commander of the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet, by A. Ryabushev in Sevastopol; date of interview not stated: "'The Fleet Is Indivisible!'"]

[Text] Vice Admiral I. Kasatonov, the new commander of the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet, answers questions put to him by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

[Ryabushev] You are from a naval family. Had the star-studded path to admiral been prepared for you ever since childhood?

[Kasatonov] It was more a thorny one than a star-studded one. I was born in Vladivostok in 1939 to the family of a submariner. I went to school, and then to a naval higher school. I have served in the Black Sea Fleet for 20 years. I started as a missile launch battery commander, and was commander of the large ASW [anti-submarine warfare] ships Provorniy and Ochakov and a fleet force of surface ships. I then served in the Northern Fleet and for 10 years occupied the posts of flotilla commander and first deputy commander of the Northern Fleet. I graduated from the Sevastopol Instrument Making Institute as an officer, and then I graduated from the Naval Academy and the Academy of the General Staff.

[Ryabushev] I suppose the August events speeded up your appointment?

[Kasatonov] Maybe that is true. But my predecessor Admiral Khronopulo did not participate in the putsch either. He retired on health grounds. I know him to be a decent man.

[Ryabushev] You are in Sevastopol again, a city that is the pride of the Russian Fleet. What will happen to it? Will the monuments to Ushakov and Nakhimov be pulled down, and will the Black Sea fleet start speaking only in Ukrainian?

[Kasatonov] The Black Sea Fleet is stationed in four Union republics, so that it would be at the very least foolish to split it up. The governments of the majority of the republics are forming national guards today. However, the Navy was created by Russia, and then by the single state of the USSR, defending and representing the interests of all the sovereign republics, whose sons perform worthy service on all ships and in all naval units without exception. It has become an organic part of the country's single economic system, and an individual republic is probably not in a position to ensure its normal existence and combat activity on its own. In a word, the Black Sea Fleet will remain part of the joint strategic forces.

[Ryabushev] And to whom will Sevastopol belong?

[Kasatonov] At the latest session of the Sevastopol City Soviet of People's Deputies a decision was adopted on opening up Sevastopol, and this includes to foreigners. But nevertheless Sevastopol was and will be the main base of the Black Sea Fleet. Therefore it should be a city that comes under both republic and Union authority. The State Council should run the fleet. Sevastopol is part of our multinational state. I love the Ukraine as much as Russia. My wife was born in Kiev. And to ask to whom Sevastopol will belong is like demanding that a child say whom he loves more—his mother or his father. I believe that Yeltsin and Kravchuk should come here together and realize this. And not forget that 87 percent of the population on the peninsula are Russians who should not in any event infringe on the interests of other nationalities. The Crimea is our common home. We, the military, are responsible for its future and must prevent

any conflicts. I am aware of how many economic problems the Crimeans have today. All provision of water and electricity comes from the Ukraine. In particular, water is only turned on four times a day in apartment blocks, and there is not enough fruit or vegetables, like everywhere else...

[Ryabushev] Many entrepreneurs would like to invest money and conclude contracts with the Black Sea Fleet on business cooperation.

[Kasatonov] I am happy to welcome any business cooperation. We are prepared to accommodate businessmen, including foreign ones. But you must not forget the fleet's main purpose—to protect the state's southern sea borders.

Northern Fleet Nuclear Safety Investigated

PM2410095191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Oct 91 p 6

[Report by correspondent A. Khramtsov: "Monitoring of Nuclear Facilities"]

[Text] Murmansk—The commission to verify the safe operation of nuclear facilities, created by the oblast nature conservation committee, has completed work at the Northern Fleet.

For the first time the Northern Fleet command has lifted the curtain of secrecy from nuclear installations for civilians. Together with representatives of the command and the main fleet specialists, the commission members familiarized themselves in detail with the state of nuclear facilities on the ships and at the enterprises on shore and with safety measures for their operation.

"We viewed absolutely everything we had planned," said A. Mikhaylov, chief of the oblast nature conservation committee's radiation safety department. "The on-shore technical base, the ship repair plants, the nuclear installations on the ships, and even the medical unit. The commission's conclusion is that the state of radiation safety in the Northern Fleet is satisfactory. The main problem of ensuring nuclear safety in the fleet is the processing of solid and liquid radioactive waste from the nuclear installations. The fleet is short of the relevant capacities."

The commission members will report their findings at the forthcoming session of the oblast soviet of people's deputies. They will suggest adopting an appeal to the Russian government on the allocation of additional funds for the construction of capacities to process radioactive waste in the Northern Fleet.

Fire Reported on Vladivostok Submarine

OW2510024291 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Oct 91

[From the "Utro" program]

[Text] There has been a fire on a diesel submarine of the Pacific Fleet in Vladivostok. It was docked at the mooring of a ship repair plant. The ship's crew, the city's fire fighting services, and rescue ships battled the blaze for more than an hour. There were no deaths or injuries.

Shaposhnikov Order on Commissar Replacement Ranks

PM2510131791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[USSR Ministry of Defense Press Center report: "New Structures for Personnel Work"]

[Text] Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, USSR Minister of Defense, signed an order on 22 October 1991 "On New Structures for Personnel Work at the Company, Battalion, Regiment, and Brigade Level." It specifically mentions that in fulfillment of the USSR presidential decrees of 24 and 29 August 1991 the activities of military political organs and the organizational structures of political parties have ceased in the USSR Armed Forces.

The order establishes the posts of assistant commanders (officers in charge) for personnel work in order to strengthen on a legal basis the unity of command in the USSR Armed Forces, increase the link between combat training and the education of personnel, democratize and humanize military and service relations, and improve servicemen's social and legal protection. As of 1 November 1991 they are being introduced into companies (with 50 or more men and into separate companies irrespective of size), battalions, regiments, brigades, and subunits and units which are their equivalents.

It is proposed that efficiency reports be prepared on officers for the posts in question and that the appropriate commanders issue orders to appoint them by 1 December 1991. The following authorized military ranks have been established for these posts: for assistant company (or equivalent subunit) commander (officer in charge)—senior lieutenant; for assistant training company (or equivalent subunit) commander (officer in charge)—captain; for assistant battalion (or equivalent subunit) commander (officer in charge)—captain or major; for assistant separate battalion (or equivalent unit) commander (officer in charge)—major; for assistant regimental (or equivalent unit) commander (officer in charge)—major or colonel; for assistant separate regiment (or equivalent unit) commander (officer in charge)—lieutenant colonel; for assistant brigade (or equivalent unit) commander (officer in charge)—lieutenant colonel.

Work on defining the structures in question at other levels of the Army and Navy is continuing.

Plight of Homeless Serviceman Examined

LD2510125191 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent G. Sedov from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yu.N.Soldatenkov, chairman of the Public Committee of Homeless Officers—identified by caption] As you can see, there is indeed a problem of servicemen without apartments. However much this problem may be hushed up at present, 292,000 families of servicemen in the Soviet Union are at present without apartments. In the city of Moscow alone there are over 9,000 families who are forced to shift from place to place and to rent apartments at prices that are already incommensurate with our monetary allowances. Nor in general do they have any prospects for the future.

We are at the present time already insisting that a state program to provide servicemen with housing be adopted in our country as quickly as possible. The reason for our insisting on a state program is that this concerns literally everyone in our country. The program must take account of the coming reductions in the armed forces—and this is already a reality—and many of those now serving in garrisons ...

[Sedov, interrupting] And this is no longer just those thousands that you specified.

[Soldatenkov] No, of course not. All those servicemen who are affected by the reductions in the garrisons in the region beyond the Arctic Circle, in the Transbaykal region, and in Turkestan will all in the very near future be reinforcing our army of the homeless. It is necessary to prepare for this right now, or else it will be too late.

Estonia

Details of Savisaar, Sobchak Meeting Reported

OW2510034091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2025 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A BF's [BALTFAX] correspondent has learned from unofficial sources the details of a meeting between Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar and St. Petersburg's Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, head of the Soviet delegation at talks with Estonia, which took place in Mr. Savisaar's residence in the village of Narva-Jisuu on October 20.

Persons close to Sobchak who asked anonimity say the meeting focused on economic relations between Estonia and Russia and the withdraval of Soviet troops from Estonia.

During the meeting Mr. Sobchak has made some critical remarks about Tallinn's policy. Unofficial sources say Mr. Savisaar said that the Estonian parliament would prepare a renewed concept of the republic's full independence.

In particular, Mr. Savisaar spoke of extending the terms of the withdrawal and liberalizing control on the border with Russia. He also pledged to settle the territorial problem (in reference to the lands owned by Estonia during 20 years of its independence before they were transferred to the Pskov and Leningrad regions of Russia in 1945). Mr. Sobchak put forward the idea of economic integration between Estonia and Russia based on the mutually beneficial principles.

Diplomatic Relations With Russia Established

OW2410183491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1714 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian and Estonian Foreign Ministers Andrey Ozyrev and Lennart Meri signed a protocol establishing diplonatic relations between the two republics at the level of embassies in Moscow October 24. The two sides have also signed a protocol on talks between Russia and Estonia to work out agreements on the rights and citizenship of the non-native populations of the two states. The protocol points out that the talks will begin as soon as possible and will be held alternately in Moscow and Tallinn. On October 24 Lennart Meri and Andrey Ozyrev also agreed that Estonia and Russia will maintain the status-quo in relation to their border until the issue is settled by an interstate treaty. Both sides expressed willingness to avoid any actions capable of aggravating the situation in the border regions.

In 1945, by decision of the Soviet authorities part of Estonia's territories were transferred to the Leningrad and Pskov regions of Russia. After the restoration of Estonia's independence, some radical Estonian politicians began demanding the return of the lands. However, the leadership and the population of the Leningrad and Pskov regions are categorically against the review of the borders.

Belgian Foreign Minister Meets Ruutel, Meri

OW2410013891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1500 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Estonian Foreign Ministry press office, Chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council Arnold Ruutel met with Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens in Tallinn October 22.

The meeting focused on economic relations between Estonia and the countries of Benelux.

On the same day Mr. Eyskens met with Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri. During the meeting the two sides adopted a memorandum stressing the importance of political and economic cooperation between Estonia and the European Community. They also discussed economic cooperation beteen Estonia and Belgium, as well as the possibility of opening Estonia's embassy in Brussels in December.

The Belgian foreign minister has also met with Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar.

Today Mr. Eyskens is visiting the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

Parliament Fails to Ban CPSU Activities

LD2410223391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2008 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 24 Oct (TASS)—Fifty deputies voted today in the Estonian parliament "to suspend the activities of the CPSU's territorial organization in the Estonian Republic," with three against and one abstaining. Despite this overwhelming preponderance of those in favor of suspending the activities of the CPE [Communist Party of Estonia]/CPSU, the decision was not passed, since it did not muster the 53 votes required by the standing orders.

Thus, the only normative enactment banning the activities of that party in Estonia is the decision of the republic's government adopted shortly after the events of August.

USSR State Bank Branches To Be Transferred

OW2510023191 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2025 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday the Estonian parliament ruled that all branches of the USSR State Bank in the Estonian

territory should be transferred to the Bank of Estonia. It also stressed the need to coordinate the ruble circulation in Estonia with the USSR Central Bank before the national currency is introduced.

Latvia

Further on Protest Over Belgian Plane Incident

LD2410183991 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMt 24 Oct 91

[Text] As we have already reported, Latvia has demanded an explanation from Moscow as to why on Sunday an aircraft carrying Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens was not permitted to land in Riga. The incident caused a change in the flight plan and Eyskens was forced to wait for four hours at Copenhagen airport until the aircraft was allowed to fly in and land at Riga. Representatives of the Belgian Foreign Ministry have reported that the incident arose out of a misunderstanding and the Belgian side will not be issuing a protest to Moscow. On the other hand, a representative for the USSR foreign minister stated that he has heard nothing about a protest from Latvia.

Economic Arbitration Court To Be Established

LD2510040991 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2130 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The Supreme Council of Latvia has agreed in principle today on the necessity of setting up an arbitration court solving economic conflicts, including Latvian or foreign partners. The law on such a court was approved today in the first reading by the Supreme Council of Latvia.

Presidium Limits Powers of Radio, Television Head

LD2510090191 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The presidium of the Supreme Council has limited the powers of Labanovskis, the chairman of the Latvian Radio and Television Committee. In future the chairman is entitled to settle important questions connected with structural reorganization only with the agreement of a committee formed by the Supreme Council. Hitherto Labanonvskis decided on matters alone, making, in fact, several unlawful decisions. Indulis Ozols, the chairman of the unified Budget Commission of the Supreme Council, [words indistinct] explained this to the press. Labanovskis decided at the beginning of this year on the liquidation of the telecommunications center as a separate economic unit, made changes to the range of information programs, and undertook other reforms in this connection.

Lithuania

Prime Minister Returns From South Asian Tour

LD2510041391 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0000 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius has returned from his tour of South Asian countries today [22 October]. Mr. Gediminas Vagnorius headed an official state delegation which first took part in the meeting of leaders of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Bangkok and then visited Japan and South Korea.

On meeting journalists in Vilnius today, the Lithuanian premier said Lithuania had chances to open the door both to the Asian [as heard] and West, yet the republic would have to rely on itself in order to overcome the present backwardness. First of all, Lithuania must speed up the economic reform, eradicate bureaucracy, and slack implementation of the government's decrees, the Lithuanian premier said.

Landsbergis Discusses Treaty with Russia

LD2510092591 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Vytautas Landsbergis chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, today received Aleksandr Granberg, member of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and chairman of the committee for interrepublican relations and regional policy.

They discussed issues concerning the ratification of the inter-state treaty between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation by the Russian Supreme Soviet. As is known, this treaty has already been ratified in Lithuania, and it is to be ratified in the Russian Federation in November.

A great deal of attention was devoted during the conversation to the issues concerning trade and economic ties and the political situation in the two countries.

By the way, the interstate treaty is to be accompanied by another 20 documents which must be drawn up.

Belorussia's Shushkevich Arrives on Return Visit

LD2410192191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1402 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belorussia, arrived today in Lithuania on a return visit. He will speak at a plenary session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania and will meet with Vytautas Landsbergis.

Bilateral documents, including a declaration on the principles of good neighborliness, will be signed.

Good-Neighbor Accord Signed

OW2510030191 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2025 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On October 24 in Vilnius, leaders of the Lithuanian and Belorussian parliaments Vytautas Landsbergis and Stanislav Shushkevich signed a declaration on the principles of good-neighbor relations, as well as the principles of equal rights, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. The document says the two republics will soon sign an economic agreement.

At a news conference after the signing ceremony Mr. Landsbergis and Mr. Shushkevich were asked if the declaration has settled the border issue (following the World War II three Belorussian regions were transferred to Lithuania).

Mr. Shushkevich said that "this matter will be resolved privately by Lithuania and Belarus".

On his part, Mr. Landsbergis noted that "this question will be discussed". He also said that a special joint Lithuanian-Belorussian commission would be created to deal with the border demarcation problem.

Mr. Landsbergis pointed out that Lithuania considers Belarus a fully independent state and on this basis builds relations with Belarus.

Vaisvila Talks With Grachev on Airspace Incident

LD2510082391 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Government Press Bureau report]

[Text] On 21 October, Soviet fighter planes intercepted a Danish aircraft carrying a group of World Health Organization experts to Lithuania. The aircraft was allowed to fly to Vilnius only after negotiations with the corresponding Soviet bodies. On the same day, attempts were made to interfere with the flight of a Swedish aircraft. Recently, a Hungarian plane was forced to return to Budapest.

On 22 October, Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Zigmas Vaisvila informed Soviet Defense Minister Shaposhnikov about these incidents. The minister promised to issue instructions that such incidents are not repeated in the future.

During their conversation, Vaisvila stressed that the Soviet Defense Ministry was delaying the withdrawal of the Soviet Army, the handing over of property, and the solution of the servicemen's social problems. The deputy prime minister demanded that a ministry working group be sent to Lithuania without delay to resolve the problems.

Minister Shaposhnikov reported that the examination of conflicts has been entrusted to Kleymenov, first deputy chief of staff of the Soviet Army. On the same day, Vaisvila spoke on the telephone with Kleymenov and with Grachev, Soviet first deputy defense minister, who reported that he will come to Lithuania this week.

Poll Shows Landsbergis Most Popular Politician

OW2410200791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1457 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vitautas Landsbergis remains the most popular political figure in Lithuania. An opinion poll taken by the sociological service at Vilnius University has found that 72% of the republic's population approve of Landsbergis' activities and 8% assess them negatively.

The second place is held by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius (68% and 15% respectively).

The third most popular man is temporary charge d'affairs of Lithuania in the USSR Egidius Bickauskas (65% and 3%).

The opinion poll has also showed that 60% of the Lithuanian population believe the situation in the republic is getting better while 22% have an opposite opinion.

57% are satisfied with the state of democracy in Lithuania and 34% are not.

85% are in favor of a market economy.

Of all public institutions of the republic the respondents trust most the Catholic Church and the government (74% each).

In the second place are the Supreme Council and mass media (trust 70% each).

38% trust courts and 37% do not trust them.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Wins 'Tentative' Chairmanship Vote

LD2510032191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 2330 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] According to the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY, at a session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet there was a tentative vote for Supreme Soviet chairman. The actual election will take place at the republic's Congress of People's Deputies, which resumes work on 28 October. Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting speaker of the Supreme Soviet, has become the leader: he received 65 votes. He is followed by Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the parliamentary security committee, who received 26 votes. Vladimir Lukin, member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, was also nominated.

Further on Khasbulatov as Nominee

OW2510051691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliamentary parties "Democratic Russia", "Communists for Democracy", "The Workers' Union", and "Non-Party Deputies" have backed Ruslan Khasbulatov as candidate for the post of chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, as INTERFAX has been informed in an exclusive interview by the chairman of the parliamentary parties' council Vladimir Novikov. The other parties, he said, have not yet nominated their candidates for the post which will be contested in an election at the Russian Federation's Congress of People's Deputies coming next week.

Novikov explained that if on the first day President Yeltsin makes, as expected, an appeal to the nation, his council will insist on an interval in the work till the end of the day to enable the parliamentary parties to define their positions.

Novikov added that the council will propose including in the agenda the president's report on the political, social and economic situation in the republic to be discussed immediately after the question on the Federation's constitution and the election of the Supreme Soviet's chairman.

Poltoranin, Ryzhov Decline Candidacy

OW2510123491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to well informed sources, RSFSR Press Minister Mikhail Poltoranin and parliamentarian Yuriy Ryzhov have declined President Yeltsin's invitation to lead the republic's government.

Legislature Votes on Administration Elections

LD2510114991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Telephone report by parliamentary correspondent Nikolay Artemyev from the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]

[Text] The Russian parliament has voted for a variant of the method of electing heads of administration proposed by the president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR]. The parliament envisages that the elections should be held in accordance with a schedule submitted by the president no later than 1 December this year and endorsed by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, bearing in mind the opinions of kray and oblast soviets of people's deputies. Thus the conflict between the president and parliament, if it actually existed, can, I think, be regarded as having run its course. I would remind you that the Supreme Soviet originally earmarked 8 December as the election date. The president did not agree to that time frame, and, in an appeal to the Supreme Soviet, he pointed out that he regarded the elections as being ill-timed in this period of crisis, even though he did not object in principle to the law on the election of heads of administration. Since the Supreme Soviet failed to heed the first appeal, the president used his right of veto. Now, following a reexamination of the law in the Supreme Soviet, a compromise has been found, and this can only be welcomed.

Today it is also planned to adopt a decision on the situation in the Chechen-Ingush Republic. The draft envisages an appeal to the presidents of the USSR, RSFSR, and Georgia, proposing the creation of an intergovernmental commission in order immediately to settle the political, legal, economic, and other problems arising in connection with the events in the region, and to devise measures to monitor the strict implementation of the agreements and accords reached.

It is intended that a law on RSFSR citizenship and on languages in the RSFSR will also be considered today, as well as a whole series of other issues. The agenda is very packed, since this is the last plenary sitting of the Supreme Soviet before the forthcoming congress, which opens on Monday.

That's the news so far from the Russian parliament. This is Nikolay Artemyev of the news service.

Agenda for 25 Oct Supreme Soviet Outlined

LD2510021191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0027 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—The following issues are planned to be discussed at the joint session of the chambers of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet this morning and this afternoon: the resolution of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet "on the procedure for implementing the RSFSR law on the election of a head of the administration" and the second reading of the draft RSFSR law on

the languages of the peoples of the RSFSR. It is expected that there will then be discussion of the draft RSFSR law on amendments and addenda to the RSFSR constitution and of the issue of the situation in the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic.

It is planned that the draft RSFSR law on citizenship will be considered at the evening session and that additions to the temporary standing orders of the Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies will be discussed.

Income Indexation, Judicial Reform Approved

LD2410214391 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Excerpts) Today the Russian parliament finally adopted the law on income indexation and savings. The law will come into force two weeks after it is published. This law will help students, pensioners, doctors, teachers and all whose income does not exceed R580 to survive the price rises. Citizens' savings will also be subject to indexation, but only up to a certain amount. With price rises both wages and savings will have a higher indexation ceiling.

The law says enterprises that set the prices on the goods and services they produce are entitled to increase their employees' earnings when possible, if this is stipulated in the collective agreement. [passage omitted]

The Russian parliament also approved the concept of judicial reform in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR]. The draft was introduced to the Supreme Soviet by President Yeltsin. The resolution states that the implementation of judicial reform is a necessary condition in order for the Russian Federation to function as a democratic, law-based state, and a priority legislative aim.

Two words in connection with this concept of judicial reform. Now it is already clear, perhaps not fully, what a merciless and inhuman legal system we inherited from the totalitarian regime. We can say with certainty the courts had no authority, but the authorities used the courts unchecked. A law-based state liberates the person, frees him from the role of a cog in a machine that is alien to him, and transforms the bureaucrat into a conscious person, into a human being. This is stipulated in the concept of the judicial reform.

After the interval, very important work will be done in parliament: a draft RSFSR law on amendments and additions to the Constitution will be examined. The deputies will again return to the law on the elections of heads of administrations in connection with the fact that the president returned it to the Supreme Soviet for reexamination. The results of the analysis of the activities of those in charge of Soviet bodies in Rostov, Tambov and Lipetsk oblasts in the RSFSR during the days of the coup d'etat will also be discussed.

Call for Citizenship, Refugee Laws Debate

PM2510144791 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[Report by Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium Press Service: "Information Report"]

[Text] The Commission on the National-State Structure and Interethnic Relations has discussed two draft laws: "On Citizenship" and "On the Status of Refugees and Forced Migrants." The latter was submitted in two versions.

The commission arrived at a conclusion on the need to submit these two draft laws to the Supreme Soviet session for discussion simultaneously in a single package.

Parliament Discusses Kuril Islands Issue

PM2510101991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Parliamentary correspondent I. Yelistratov report: "Giving the Japanese the Islands. No One Opinion on This Issue in Russian Parliament"]

[Text] The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Chamber of Nationalities has held hearings to examine the problems of territorial demarcation in Soviet-Japanese relations.

A report was delivered by Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev, and V. Fedorov, head of the Sakhalin Oblast administration, set out his position in this issue. Both of them answered deputies' questions.

At the beginning of the hearings there was a discussion about whether to bar journalists or not. A. Kozyrev, arguing for the need for the discussions to be held in camera, cited the delicate nature of the subject and also referred to the U.S. example, where one-third of all hearings in Congress are held behind closed doors. The deputies disagreed with the minister's arguments and the press remained.

Beginning his report, A. Kozyrev admitted with a sigh of relief that this decision was possibly for the best—the Stalinist-Brezhnevite style of conducting international affairs had indeed deadlocked the situation, and this style was not to his liking. For many years the "northern territories" subject was off limits to the press. If it was ever opened up it was only to scare the people yet again about the "Japanese military" and U.S. military bases.

A. Kozyrev stressed with some pride that it was only with the appearance on the political scene of a new, democratic Russian parliament that the slow and cautious progress toward an improvement in Soviet-Japanese relations began.

A. Kozyrev called on Russian deputies to approach the issue in a balanced fashion and to help the Russian

Government in this work. In particular, the minister proposed organizing a joint Russian-Japanese seminar with the participation of academics, diplomats, and parliamentarians.

However, the discussion of the minister's report showed that the Russian-Japanese dialogue will have some difficult tests ahead. Two positions were immediately identified—the "let's settle it" position and the "we won't give up an inch of Russian soil!" position.

When the discussion developed and feelings began running high, it became clear that such matters are indeed better decided behind closed doors rather than in haste, as was the case today, when all the "hearings" lasted less than the hour left until the end of the parliament's working day. This made it impossible for V. Fedorov, who had come tens of thousands of kilometers from Sakhalin for the session, to get a proper hearing. The course of the session showed that the subject of the four South Kuril islands is entirely capable of splitting the parliament.

Some of the parliament opposes the islands' transfer to the Japanese side. But nobody is planning to just hand them over. As A. Kozyrev stressed, "Russia has no spare land." And, at the same time, can we continue to tolerate the fact that the international community refuses to recognize both the Soviet and Russian border with Japan—their great neighbor?

However, many deputies seemed not to have heard A. Kozyrev. They kept harping on the question of how much Russia—that is, the Kurils—will be sold for.

It seems that this inability to hear and understand each other could become the Russian parliament's trademark. When Sakhalin Governor V. Fedorov spoke he put forward a whole series of arguments as to why the islands should not be given up—from the threat of the possible creation of a Far Eastern Republic in the event of the islands being conceded to Japan, to the existence of huge fishing reserves in adjoining waters. And that is understandable—he is in charge of the territory, and he is a sensible overseer who values every log in his woodpile. But we also need to try to understand the Japanese, many of whom have lived and worked on these islands...

Or perhaps B. Yeltsin was right to say that "this problem will be solved by wiser politicians who will come along after us."

...An entire package of acts of legislation—bound together under the general title of "The Concept for Judicial Reform in the RSFSR"—was presented to the Russian parliament for the first time 24 October. Observers' attention was also drawn to the fact that Deputy S. Baburin protested the Russian Government's intention to deport former GDR leader Erich Honecker and proposed that parliament examine the case.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin To Present Economic Reform Program

LD2510113991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Galina Starovoytova, adviser to the Russian president, has said that the democrats who took power in August cannot be held responsible for the crisis in the country and the decline in the population's living standards. According to Galina Starovoytova, Boris Yeltsin will present a new program of radical economic reform on 28 October.

Congress To Discuss Draft Constitution

LD2510161491 Moscow TASS in English 1401 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—The Fifth Emergency Congress of Russian People's Deputies will reopen in Moscow on October 28 with Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin's address to the republic's parliamentarians and citizens.

The Congress was convened last July to elect a new parliamentary speaker to replace Yeltsin after he won the presidential elections in the republic.

However, neither Ruslan Khasbulatov nor Sergey Baburin proposed for the post received the required number of votes.

The situation has changed since the August coup in the Soviet Union and Khasbulatov now has more chances for success, Sergey Filatov, Russian parliamentary presidium leader, told TASS.

He said Yeltsin will focus in his speech on the need for accelerated reforms and a new government.

He said as soon as the republic takes over all property on its territory, it will start radical reforms. Until recently, from 70 to 80 per cent of property in Russia was owned by the centre.

The Congress will also discuss a draft constitution of the Russian Federation.

The section devoted to the republic's national and administrative composition is expected to cause the most heated discussions, since its former autonomous republics plan to hold presidential elections.

Tataria, which has declared state sovereignty, "abides by Soviet rather than Russian laws," Filatov said.

He warned of a "disintegration of the Russian Federation" if other constituent republics follow suit.

"All our rearms [as received] will collapse and inter-ethnic wars will break out, since many Russians live in former autonomous republics," Filatov said.

He said the congress may adopt the draft constitution on the first reading. He believes, however, "there will be no unanimity, which many expect after the Russian Communist Party quit the political scene". "Neither will there be reactionary and purposeful war preparations," Filatov said.

Kozyrev Predicts Radical Reorganization

OW2410221991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2109 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The foreign minister of the Russian Federation, Andrey Kozyrev, told journalists after signing the protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Estonia that the Russian Foreign Ministry would be radically reorganized in the near future. The USSR Foreign Ministry would, he said, become a purely coordinating and consultative body rather than one formulating the country's foreign policy.

"We are also going to cut down the staff in the embassies," Mr. Kozyrev said. "We shall do so for more than economic reasons. Our principle is that embassies should be run by diplomats, not by intelligence services."

Mr. Kozyrev refused to answer the question whether he would be included in the new Russian government.

Further on Kozyrev's Remarks

LD2510130191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0854 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—"The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not, in its present form, correspond to the interests of the Russian Federation and the other republics, nor to the formation of a renewed union," Andrey Kozyrev, Russian minister of foreign affairs, believes. As reported to a TASS correspondent today at the the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, the head of the Russian foreign policy department spoke in favor of "transferring the basic functions and professional apparatus of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the union republics".

According to the minister, "the union foreign policy department can only retain a consultative and coordinating role, with a radical cut-back in staff".

KGB Chief Ivanenko Interviewed by Magazine

PM2510140591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 91 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Ready for Cooperation"]

[Text] The Russian KGB must strive for a dialogue with Western special services. Correspondents for the popular German weekly QUICK were told this by Viktor Ivanenko, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] KGB. In an interview published today the leader of the Russian state security organs pointed out that terrorism, the drugs trade, and the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons pose a threat to all countries. "Overcoming our prejudice, we will cooperate with the West," V. Ivanenko said. "Only together will we be able to resolve these problems." He named as possible forms of cooperation not only the exchange of information but also the creation of joint operational groups.

Speaking about the future activity of the Russian KGB, which is being formed, its chairman emphasized that this organ's staffers will use all the means at their disposal to combat crime, while not going outside the law. At the same time parliament must have the possibility of controlling the KGB's work in detail.

According to V. Ivanenko, a proposal has already been made to rename the RSFSR KGB. It is possible that this organization will in the future be called the "FBR"—Russian federal security service.

Prosecutor Bans Parties Promoting Ethnic Strife

LD2410133791 Moscow TASS in English 1156 GMT 24 Oct 91

["Russia Gets Tough With Its Independence-Minded Minorities"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 24 TASS—The Russian Public Prosecutor's Office announced on Wednesday it is banning the activity of political parties and public organizations in the Russian Federation which aim to stir up ethnic strife, promote violence or work to split up the Russian Federation.

This decision came about after calls from representatives of some public organizations in Tatarstan, the Chechen-Ingush Republic, the Saratov Region, to forcibly overthrow the state and public system, and split from Russian territory.

In a statement circulated here on Wednesday, the Russian Public Prosecutor's Office announced that citizens will be answerable to Russian law. Media found responsible for collaborating with such groups could be banned.

Newspaper Views Prosecutor's Ban

PM2510134391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Yu. Feofanov: "Prosecutor's Office Wants To Be Above the Law?"]

[Text] TASS has issued the following statement:

"The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Prosecutor's Office has outlawed the activity of all political parties and public organizations of the RSFSR aimed at kindling national hatred, using violence, and disrupting the unity of the Russian Federation's territory. In a statement issued in Moscow the Russian Prosecutor's Office has warned that criminal charges will be brought against citizens for such actions. The mass media used for these purposes will bear responsibility right up to the cessation of their publication. These measures have been caused by the public appeals of representatives of several public associations of tataria, Checheno-Ingushetia, and Saratov Oblast for the violence overthrow of the state and public system and the disruption of the unity of RSFSR territory."

There is no doubt that parties, movements, citizens, and mass media must bear responsibility for the deeds listed above. The question is who can declare the culprits to be "outside the law," and how. That is the exclusive prerogative of the court. Only the court, having examined a case within the procedure established by law, with the sides' participation, has the right to ban a party or close a newspaper.

I tried to sort out this question at the RSFSR Prosecutor's Office. Unfortunately, I did not manage to get hold of the general prosecutor. One deputy was on vacation, another would be "in later. M. Slavgorodskiy, the deputy general prosecutor, was there. His secretary told me he was busy. I nonetheless asked to be put through to him because the statement was being published in the next issue. To which the secretary replied: "Mikhail Dmitriyevich does not engage in the nationalities question." To my persistent requests to be put through nonetheless she interrupted: "No, I know myself who does what in our office and I shall not put you through."

To be honest, I admired this woman who decides who does what in the RSFSR Prosecutor's Office. Although a doubt did begin to creep in: Was she not exceeding her powers? Well, that is a trifle for a secretary.

Is the Prosecutor's Office itself not exceeding its powers—that is the question. Not so long ago our newspaper said that the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Court had decided to hear the case for the justification of the arrest of an accomplice of the State Committee for the State of Emergency and said that if there were no grounds they would let him go. To which the RSFSR general prosecutor said the following: "But we shall immediately arrest him again." This disrespect for the court on the part of the supreme observer of the law is surprising. But understandable.

Since the thirties the prosecutor's office has been placed above the law. It was given powers to supervise court business, turning all justice upside down. And that is how it has been since then. What battles the USSR Supreme Soviet withstood when the question arose of depriving prosecutors of the functions of supervising the court. The law was adopted but they are utterly unwilling to renounce the "coordinating role" of the prosecutor's office. To judge by the statement I have quoted the prosecutor's office now wants to subordinate the law to itself.

The statement issued by TASS will be read by people locally as it suits them. God forbid they begin to close parties and newspapers: They will always find a pretext. After all they will have to restore them afterward, if law still operates in this country. And the result will be that what is truly good and necessary but has been implemented illegally will be compromised.

Stepankov Wary of Rapid Judicial Reforms

LD2410173791

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1400 GMT on 24 October carries a 5-minute report by correspondent Nikolay Artemyev on the 24 October Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet [RSFSR] session. Artemyev asks RSFSR Procurator General Valentin Georgiyevich Stepankov to comment on the judicial reform legislation debated at the session.

Stepankov responds: "First, I do not like to be considered—and I hope the Supreme Soviet has understood me correctly and I hope listeners will understand me too—as an opponent of judicial and legal reform. I do not oppose it. I am an ardent advocate of this reform. The only thing—I spoke about it here and I am ready to repeat it—is that judicial and legal reform is a serious business. This is a constitutional package of laws. It is a new strategic line in the development of our judicial bodies and other law and order bodies. Its discussion and adoption will carry us to the path that judicial and legal reform legislation should follow. This is as serious an issue as the law on property, and as important as the laws on land and issues relating to the system of state power, presidential power, etc. This is a very serious question."

"I have said and I repeat today that there should be no haste. Today, some sort of an analogy has been appearing in the press as if somebody is trying to turn judicial and legal reform into a race like the forced collectivization of the past: divide it into stages, and appoint authorized people and then we will decide when we will (?activate) one body and when we will transfer some functions from one body to another. But none of the authors—I spoke to them earlier at the meetings of

the Committee on Legislation—specified either timescales, or real stages, or material resources which we need in order to do this, or, what is most important, cadre availability. Our poor cadre availability needs to be radically changed."

"That's why I spoke at the Supreme Soviet and proposed that the opinion of a certain group of members not be foisted upon the Supreme Soviet as the ultimate truth. This concept requires a serious examination by our scientific and research institutes, leading academic institutes in the sphere of the theory of state and law and judicial legislation."

"The Committee on Legislation of the Supreme Soviet, where I am a member, also turned to the USSR Union of Lawyers. They are ready to help us conduct an independent examination by Western scientists. I think that only after serious work and after supporting it with specific figures in financial and material provision of this reform, we can start to implement it stage-by-stage. This is my position."

"Thus, I advocate this reform, without which it will be very difficult for us to make progress."

Yeltsin's Economic Reform Plans Questioned

PM2310134191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Oct 91 Union Edition pp 1, 2

[I. Demchenko article: "B. Yeltsin's Statement on the Need To Free Prices Has Prompted No Reaction at All. Yet..."]

[Text] It is expected that the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] president will promulgate his own package of radical economic reforms in the very near future. But he outlined at any rate the strategic guidelines in a television interview last week. These include two main planks: the liberalization of prices and the freeing of wages (for workers in budget-financed sectors, pensioners, students, and servicemen—in short, people on fixed incomes—this must clearly mean the introduction of indexation).

The most interesting thing here is that society has so far virtually not reacted at all to the announcement of these changes, which are very important for not just the population of the RSFSR but the whole country. Boris Yeltsin's statement, in parliamentary language, has merely been noted. This alone makes it possible to gauge the extent of the dismay and demoralization felt by our society, which just a year ago took very badly the possible prospect of having stable prices for "only" 100 primary goods and services. Today there is no promise to maintain prices for even a dozen items—and this elicits no reaction at all.

However, there will certainly be a reaction as soon as the discussion gets down to specifics. And if Yeltsin really does decide to go through with such unpopular measures, he will have to withstand attacks from the trade unions and the people's representatives—elected and otherwise—who till the fertile soil of defending "working people's" interests.

The simultaneous freeing of prices and wages will result in a hyperinflationary explosion such as our country has not experienced since the time of the civil war, and perhaps even more powerful. After that it will clearly be necessary to go over to a different scale of prices—of the Italian and Japanese type, where thousands of lire and yen constitute the unit of measure—or implement other special measures, because it will be absolutely impossible to stabilize the current ruble whether it bears a satin design or a Russian tricolor even after protecting the RSFSR from ruble intervention from the other republics by means of a Berlin wall.

However, in the opinion of many economists, it is already impossible to stabilize the present state currency. And perhaps the freeing of prices is the most obvious way out of our current state of "stagnation and deepening crisis." Therefore even simply the intention to carry it out out warrants a tribute to the resoluteness of the Russian president, who is putting his prestige and image at risk for what he considers to be the benefit of the people who elected him. The bid for reforms made by Boris Yeltsin last week is perhaps his most courageous action of not just the first 100 days of his presidency, but his entire political career.

Today B. Yeltsin alone virtually embodies the government of people's trust from which a request for patience and understanding over the inevitable painful decline in living standards even compared with today's difficult period could still be accepted. The Russian president—this is a reality which cannot be ignored—is the sole politician who enjoys sufficient, or almost sufficient, prestige to carry out radical economic transformations in the country—and the intention to carry out fundamental, rather than purely nominal, reforms in Russia should be seen precisely in this light. For all the respect for sovereignties, you have to realize that deep economic transformations in the biggest republic are bound to have an impact on neighboring states, whose economies are very closely intertwined with Russia's.

The evolution undergone by B. Yeltsin from populist promises that the implementation of economic reforms will not affect the people's standard of living to his present statements deserves, I think, the most serious attention. It can be expected that in the very near future the RSFSR president will have to face to the full the bitter experience of a cooling off on the part of his most ardent admirers and devoted champions. It is impossible today to predict whether the announced reforms will actually be carried out or not: Experience shows that statements by our politicians do not always coincide with their later actions. But the RSFSR president at any rate has already done quite a lot: He has not simply warned of the need to carry out unpopular measures, but has been the first politician to describe what exactly they would be and to state his readiness to carry them out.

Shakhray Resigned Over 'Tragic Mistake'

PM2410104591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 91 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Sergey Shakhray, Russian presidential adviser, by Aleksandr Linkov; date and place not specified: "Opposition Is the Norm. But There Is a Time and Place For It"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray, the president's adviser and one of his closest assistants, a professional to whom the parliament has regularly turned for juridical clarification on various subtle points of legislation, has resigned as chairman of the Committee for Legislation. He resigned on the day that the Supreme Soviet refused the president's request to postpone the election of the administration heads. What is this? Is he protesting or taking a stand? I talked to Sergey Shakhray about this.

[Linkov] Sergey Mikhaylovich, the president's request has not been met. Boris Yeltsin responded to the Supreme Soviet's refusal to postpone the election date by saying that he had almost expected it: He imposed a veto. Won't relations in the top echelons of power deteriorate as a result of this?

[Shakhray] The president was forced to employ his right of veto. I think that the parliament will take this the right way. Because, before doing so, the president had asked for the election date to be postponed. He was backed by more than half the members of the Supreme Soviet and simply did not have enough votes for the decision to be revised. I think that the president's earnest arguments will be accepted and there will be a truce for the reform period.

[Linkov] How then are we to regard your resignation—as disagreement with the parliament and its actions or all-out backing for the president's decisions?

[Shakhray] I don't agree with the interpretation that the parliament has started to oppose the president over some mundane issue. Of course, the parliament is entitled to do this; that is normal parliamentary practice throughout the civilized world. But in this case we are talking about the future of Russian statehood and the economic reforms. No more and no less. So the tragic situation has developed whereby holding elections now means 3-6 months without an executive. Communist, democratic, whatever you like to call it. Regardless of the election results, no one will be implementing reforms. And the president is responsible for these reforms.

Second. Given the lack of a normal economy and the political crisis, elections will result in the hungry, ill-clad population of krays and oblasts electing the leaders who promise more than the others. And in order to justify their promises those people will simply start putting up customs barriers.

That is why I announced my resignation, in the belief that this decision on elections is a tragic mistake on the parliament's part. I do not agree that we can oppose the president now. The Supreme Soviet must back his reforms.

Abdulatipov Comments on Ethnic Problems

LD2410155591 Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 24 TASS—Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Russian Supreme Soviet, told the weekly "GLASNOST" during an interview, published today, that the situation in the northern Caucasus was "explosive and fraught with a tremendous danger for the entire Russian Federation."

"Despite the fact that the problems confronting every republic of that region are quite specific, all the nations inhabiting it have a common pain, linked with past unlawful repressions and deportations," Abdulatipov said. He believes the Russian legislative bodies had committed a serious blunder by adopting a very necessary law on the rehabilitation of repressed nations without giving the Council of Nationalities of the Russian Supreme Soviet a chance to elaborate first a mechanism for its implementation. Since there was no mechanism, people began to implement the law as they understood it. This triggered dramatic ethnic complications.

Abdulatipov presumes it is now necessary to stop the process of the eviction of people—refugees from southern Ossetia—even by means of economic sanctions, and to stabilise the situation cost what it may. "Connivance at the Georgian leadership's policy leads to the spreading of the civil war from beyond the Caucasian range to Russia, this actually means Georgia's interference in the affairs of the Russian Federation," Abdulatipov believes. "Some 70,000 refugees have arrived in Russia. Is this not an aggression against the Russian Federation? This is an outright aggression, which is continuing for quite a time now," he said.

The Council of Nationalities of the Russian parliament passed a decision the other day to send delegations to former union republics in order to conclude agreements on the protection of fellow-countrymen who are in the minority there," Abdulatipov said. "Unfortunately," he added, "the ethnic knots in our country have not been untangled during the past 5-6 years, but, on the contrary, were tied even faster."

Ban on CPSU, RCP Activities Proposed

OW2410182891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1210 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of Russian MPs, among them Sergey Shakhray, Gleb Yakunin and Vladimir Varov, intend to

sent an appeal to the Russian President on the future of the CPSU and the RCP [Russian Communist Party].

The hearings in the Russian parliament have proved that the two "are not political parties but extragovernmental organizations that substituted for the popularly elected bodies, usurped power and organized the unconstitutional putsch in August 1991".

The appeal suggests steps banning the activities of the RCP and the CPSU in Russian territory, dissolving their organizational structures and their legal successors.

At the same time the appeal says citizens of Russia should not be held responsible for mere membership in the party and calls for drafting a law on the property of the RCP, the CPSU and their legal successors.

Sobchak 'Indignant' At Alleged Coup Report

LD2510103191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] A scandal is mounting in the northern capital [Leningrad]. SMENA has published the transcript of a telephone conversation between Sobchak and Kurkov, chief of the Leningrad KGB. The conversation took place on one of the nights of the coup. Kurkov passed on Kryuchkov's respects and asked for the so-called "Event 10" to be conducted as calmly as possible. This is believed to be the rally held at 1000 on 20 August. Russian KGB experts have confirmed the authenticity of the recording. The press and members of a commission of deputies were satisfied by this interpretation of the conversation. But Sobchak is indignant and is demanding satisfaction from SMENA, the IMMA-PRESS agency reports.

Statistics Committee Indicates Economic 'Crisis'

LD2510102691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0908 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Tatyana Akkuratova]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—A crisis situation has developed in the national economy of Russia. This is the conclusion drawn by the RSFSR State Committee for Statistics [Goskomstat], which has summed up the results of the republic's development in January-September of this year.

The most acute situation is to be found in the consumer market, particularly as regards the food supplies to the population. The point is that the harvest of grain—some 90 million tons have been gathered in—and of some other crops this year is substantially below that of last year. Moreover, farms are doing their utmost to impede the sale of agricultural produce to the state. The centralized resources from the sale have declined markedly, with the result that major industrial centers have begun to experience the greatest difficulties with supplies.

The position is no easier in the case of other consumer goods, many of which have simply disappeared from the shelves. April's retail price rises, while originally lessening speculative demand somewhat, did nothing to stock the shops; the supply of goods is not growing, and various forms of rationing are becoming more and more widespread.

Goskomstat regards one of the causes of these difficulties as being the fact that the advance along the road of reform is proceeding only slowly, although the laws on privatization, antimonopoly activity, and taxation policy create the legal base for shaping the foundations of a market economy. By the beginning of October, for example, 2,700 enterprises were operating on a leasing basis in industry, 5,000 in construction, and about 13,000 in retail trade and public catering. But throughout the vast republic, only 66 shops and stalls and 28 public catering enterprises are actually owned by citizens. In Russia there are over 31,000 peasant (livestock) farms, the numbers of which grew by 3,000 in September alone.

The economy seems to have become a hostage to politics. While the sovereign republics are working out their attitude toward the signing of an economic cooperation treaty, the disintegration of economic ties is continuing. During the first six months, the Ukraine, for instance, supplied only 35 percent of the volume of ferrous rolled metal envisaged for the year, while Belarus is lagging behind with honoring its commitments as regards supplying the RSFSR with diesel fuel and truck and car tires. The same applies to other republics as well, including Russia.

Local Affairs

Parliament Bans 27 Oct Chechen-Ingush Election

LD2410224891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2011 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)—The elections to the supreme bodies of state power in Chechen-Ingush which were scheduled for 27 October by the National Congress of the Chechen people led by General Dudayev have no legal basis and their results cannot be accepted. This decision was taken by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet today.

The Supreme Soviet has entrusted the Provisional Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, RSFSR and USSR people's deputies representing this republic, together with public movements, with ensuring legal guarantees in the implementation of the elections and the participation of all citizens, irrespective of nationality, religion, sex and membership of political parties and movements.

Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin signed a decree today appointing Akhmad Arsanov as his representative in the Republic of Chechen- Ingush. This step has been taken in order to ensure the interaction between the supreme bodies of the RSFSR executive authorities and the Council of Ministers of the Chechen-Ingush Republic.

Chechen-Ingush Elections 'Illegal'

OW2410223491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2109 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution on Thursday declaring that the elections to the supreme organs of power in Chechen-Ingush, set for 27th October, have no grounding in law.

The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, has appointed as his representative in Chechen-Ingush Akhmad Arsanov. The decree notes that the step was taken with the aim of "guaranteeing mutual cooperation between the supreme organs of executive power in the RSFSR and the Council of Ministers in the Chechen-Ingush republic".

Meanwhile, according to reports from Groznyy, the situation in Chechen-Ingush remains difficult. On 27th October elections for republican president will be held. These are being organised by supporters of the Executive Committee of the Pan-National Congress of the Chechen People. This group, whose armed formations in fact control the situation in the Chechen-Ingush capital, is led by retired general Jokhar Dudayev.

The work of the former Council of Ministers of the republic has been blocked.

Further Discussion of Elections

LD2410174391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1550 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS special correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy, 24 Oct (TASS)—The Provisional Supreme Soviet of Chechen-Ingush has declared the elections for the republic's president and parliament, planned for Sunday, to be illegal. The resolution was published today by this body, which is not recognized by the executive committee of the Chechen People's National Congress. It says that whatever the results of these elections, they will have no force in law.

The situation in Groznyy was described as "explosive" by participants in a meeting today of deputies from all levels and delegates of labor collectives representing the Russian-speaking population of Chechen-Ingush. They named a provisional committee to prepare for a congress of the Russian-speaking population on 12 November. The committee was also instructed to represent the interests of Russian-speaking residents in all state and public bodies. Members of the Provisional Supreme Soviet of Chechen-Ingush, Cossack chieftains, and representatives of public organizations and movements also participated in the meeting's work.

Georgiy Galkin, chieftain of the Groznyy section of the Terek Cossacks, was elected chairman of the provisional committee.

Report on Electoral Opponents

LD2510005891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2011 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy, 24 Oct (TASS)—The elections in Chechen-Ingush, which are scheduled for next Sunday, have been the main topic at meetings in the Council of Ministers building and in Shaykh Mansur square. If those gathered at the Council of Ministers are "in favor" of holding the elections then those in the square speak of the illegality of the elections.

Nevertheless, according to Besla Gantamirov, chairman of the defense committee of the executive committee of the National Congress of the Chechen People (NCCP), "there will be no civil war in the Chechen land." "Weapons will be used only if there is outside intervention," he said.

Gantamirov claims that the RSFSR Supreme Soviet's resolution on the surrender of weapons will not be fulfilled. According to him, "the guards are armed and will continue to carry arms until the lawful president of the republic and the parliament have been elected."

The opposition is also having its say. The provisional supreme council of the Chechen-Ingush Republic has distributed the resolution "On the unlawfulness of holding elections on 27 October." It has issued an appeal to all the citizens of the Chechen-Ingush Republic that while the NCCP executive is keeping in mind the unlawfulness of its actions, it is nevertheless trying to use the present complex situation in the republic in order to achieve its own political interests.

Provisional Council Issues Appeal

LD2410150491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1334 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS special correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy, 24 Oct (TASS)—The Provisional Supreme Council set up by the republican parliament calls upon the citizens of Chechen-Ingushetia to take active part in preserving the nation and finding a constitutional way out of the crisis situation.

The appeal, published here today, says among other things that the sociopolitical and economic situation in

the republic "is deteriorating with every hour." Being a public organization, the Executive Committee of the National Congress of the Chechen People (NCCP) has illegally taken power, and is grossly violating the Constitution and laws of the Chechen-Ingush Republic. The Provisional Supreme Council is firmly convinced that the Executive Committee's actions are leading the Chechen people "toward a major tragedy."

"The entire responsibility for the situation that has arisen," the appeal says, "rests wholly and absolutely with the NCCP Executive Committee. Showing respect for national traditions, the Provisional Supreme Council is calling upon people of the older generation, who have themselves experienced all the hardships and grief of terrible deportation, and people who believe in God, to unite in order to establish peace in their home."

The Council has called upon all people to disarm. "Let the law and only the law be our weapon."

Kaliningrad 'Coup' Reportedly To Occur 25 Oct

LD2510011291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The SEVEROZAPAD news agency reports that a local coup that could be the beginning of a creeping putsch throughout the country will take place on 25 October. This warning came from the Baltic regional organization called DPR [Russian Democratic Party]. A decision on the status of the Kaliningrad oblast is to be adopted at the session of the oblast soviet on this day. According to the oblast soviet, it will have the right to suspend republican laws and president's decrees. If this decision is adopted the soviet will also be acting as an executive power. It is interesting that this decision was being worked out by representatives of three organizations: a suspended Russian Communist Party oblast committee; a KGB directorate; and Rus, a national and patriotic society. Democrats called upon their fellow citizens to picket the session.

'Party Nomenklatura' Behind Tatar Conflict

PM2510080291 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Oct 91 p 2

[B. Vishnevskiy article: "Tatarstan: So the Main Argument Is the Frenzy of the Mob?"]

[Text] Eleven murders in four days—this unprecedented upsurge in crime was recorded at the Tatarstan MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] last week. Such trivia as burglaries and other criminal games are not even worth mentioning. The soaring crime rate is directly linked, in my opinion, with the unsanctioned nationalist rallies in Kazan's Svoboda [Freedom] Square. On 15 October, the first day of the Tatar SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet session, all the available militia personnel were sent in here. And it was only after the first bloodshed, the first casualties, which KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has reported, that the spetsnaz [special-purpose troops] appeared in the square.

Factory-made metal balls, sharp-pointed cogs capable of striking down a living target in flight with a glancing blow—all these were in the attackers' arsenal. Onlookers dubbed the sound track: "Democrats are scum! Get out of Tatarstan!" This was aimed at small groups of DPR [Democratic Party of Russia] representatives returning from a sanctioned rally. "Imperialist rats! We will annihilate you!"—that was aimed at MVD workers who, at the cost of their own blood, prevented mass slaughter.

What was all this? A spontaneous outburst by the mob? Or a carefully rehearsed scene? If it was the former, how do you explain the organized columns of buses and cars from out of town, accompanied by the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Service? If it was the latter, why have the perpetrators not been named?

Leaders of law enforcement organs, reporting to people's deputies, probably said more than many people were expecting. Yes, there are hundreds of witnesses of the incident, capable of reconstructing the events minute by minute and identifying the attackers. There are those who were arrested or injured (they mentioned 16 injured militiamen and seven citizens knocked to the ground by the mob). And lastly, the video materials, weapons of crime, and other items that the investigations group has filed in connection with the criminal proceedings that have been instituted. But does this classic collection mean that the case promises to be easy?

The anxiety and doubt that currently besets the lives of the peoples of Tatarstan do not date back only to 15 October. A long train of turbulent events, which were hushed up in someone's interests but consequently snowballed, is preying on the minds of not only the ordinary citizens. Not long ago V. Belyayev, member of the Tatar SSR State Council and cochairman of Tatarstan's multinational movement "Soglasiye" ["Accord"], appealed to the republic's leadership in the press. He demanded that they "make public the criminal proceedings concerning the organization of mass disturbances and subversion in the region of the oil pipeline at Almetyevsk and the outrages during the May Day demonstration at Naberezhnyye Chelny..., and bring criminal proceedings against all instigators, organizers, and members of paramilitary formations... Last, and most important. On the eve of the Tatar SSR Supreme Soviet session, which is capable—once again ignoring the opinion of the people of Tatarstan, without a referendum, that is, flouting the people's sovereignty—of proclaiming the 'independence of the Tatar SSR,' it is incumbent on the State Council to propose that this question, which could provoke interethnic conflict in the republic, be removed from the agenda..."

No one is likely to deny the connection between these subjects today. Or the fact that in the republic, contrary to the law, common sense, and numerous peace-loving

declarations, the practice of exerting pressure bordering on the criminal for political purposes has become established. Let us confine ourselves to a recent case—the history of the question of Tatarstan's state independence. Nobody put this item on the session agenda. It was not discussed at the Supreme Soviet Presidium, nor in the working commissions. Nonetheless, at the prompting of the leaders of national movements, the question was put to a roll-call vote by the chairman. When the results board showed a negative result, they announced a break. M. Mulyukov and F. Bayramova, chairmen of the All-Union Tatar Public Center and "Ittifak," the national independence party, left the hall and went "among the people" to report to the voters. A printout showing the names of the "recalcitrant" deputies and their home addresses found its way into the hands of the enraged mob. The subsequent assault on the building prompted a calm comment from the presidium: "The people are interested in the session proceedings." Another incident proved very apposite. Apparently the leaders of the All-Union Tatar Public Center and "Ittifak" had "got their buttons confused" in the first vote and failed to express their will. So the vote had to be repeated. By that time another loud reminder had been issued to the disobedient: "We will... drag them out of the hall, one by one." So said the session's guest F. Akhmadi, hajji-imam of the Aktyubinsk Mosque, grabbing the microphone.

This man who is invariably clad in the garb of a priest and calls himself by a church title was disowned by M. Mulyukov, who called him a "charlatan." But is there not room even for "charlatans" in the scenario, since they bless the rally in the name of Allah and people fall on their knees to pray before them? When A. Shipulin, a 20-year-old private on compulsory service who was injured in the assault, was carried past us on a stretcher (he was unconscious, with injuries to the head, arms, and spine), I could not help turning to the "holy father": Is that what the church teaches? And I heard the reply: "What has happened is pleasing to God. There can be no struggle without blood and casualties. There will be more." I have no doubt that such instigators of confrontation will encourage it. The next day F. Akhmadi disseminated a letter among deputies, saying, and I quote: "The Islamic Democratic Party of Tatarstan passes a severe but just sentence. Deputies, irrespective of nationality, who voted against the statehood of the long-suffering Tatar people are subject to expulsion from Tatarstan, with their relatives and supporters. The expulsion will be carried out by independent brigades..."

Could these be the very brigades whose formation the All-Union Tatar Public Center called for immediately after the August putsch? When, according to these same rally organizers, "a threat arose from the Russian empire, whose hands are no longer tied." Any day now, it was said, there will be tanks from Moscow in Kazan, so we must prepare for bloodshed and defend ourselves by assembling a people's militia... But logic decrees that those who prepare the people for slaughter themselves provoke bloodshed. And the mob is not likely to stop of its own accord. It is no accident that there are persistent rumors that the recent assault on the square was only a rehearsal for the "big job." To confirm this, the departing thugs promised to return: "There will be more of us, and we'll be armed..."

On hearing vague calls on them to be "ready to defend their constitutional and civil rights," ordinary people "defend themselves as best they can." Strike committees spring up spontaneously at enterprises, and alternative self-defense detachments in neighborhoods. In this event, what path will Tatarstan take?

It seems that the wave of protests produced results after all. The 87 Tatar SSR people's deputies who refused to yield to pressure from the square won for their colleagues the opportunity to do constructive work (but that is another story). The session goes on. The square has fallen silent. But for how long?

There is also another factor that causes people a sense of uncertainty. "It is a pity that the parliamentarians of Russia and Tatarstan cannot find a common language," N. Medvedev, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Commission on Interethnic Relations, told the newspaper KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI. "I was surprised," he went on, "at the attitude of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet chairman, who... advised me to meet with nobody and talk with nobody... The suspicion arises that the leaders of Tatarstan are deliberately delaying the resolution of this question." For people who live in Tatarstan and hear it said hastily that "Tatarstan is not Turkey yet, but it is no longer Russia," it is doubly distressing. But grievances and suspicions will get us nowhere. And I feel disinclined to look for the extremes again. It is time at long last that plenipotentiary representatives of sovereign states sat down at the conference table. And took account of all opinions, not only the opinions of those who shout loudest.

"The situation is critical," was the comment of Murat Sirazin, Tatar SSR people's deputy and one of the organizers of the Tatar Movement for Democratic Reforms, on the recent events. "Once again they want to turn the fraternal Tatar and Russian peoples against each other. It is a well-known principle—divide and rule. And it is still the same forces—the party nomenklatura, camouflaged with green flags. They have already taken in the most gullible. But the final say is with the sensible majority."

Media

Radio Rossii Director Davydov Interviewed

LD2510111191 Moscow SEM DNEY in Russian 21 Oct 91 p 2

[Interview with Sergey Davydov, director of Radio Rossii, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] The radio waves have had their own "velvet revolution". Since 18 September, throughout the whole of the republic's territory, with the exception of Moscow and the Moscow oblast—and since 1 October in the capital, too—the First Program has in the main carried the programs of Radio Rossii instead of those of the central radio. What lies behind this resolute penetration of the First Program by Radio Rossii?

[Davydov] In the first place this is provided for in the protocol on the organization of broadcasting on the territory of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] which was confirmed by Boris Yeltsin and M. Gorbachev, the two presidents. Under this protocol the republican program is carried via Program One of the distribution network. You and I understand that it is a question of supremacy because today only the first program covers the whole of the republic's territory. Second, Radio Rossii, which has been in existence since 10 December 1990, has since that time been working to set up its own permanent channel. The events of 19-21 August have accelerated this process. No doubt this decision was influenced by our consistent stance against the putsch and by our work in underground conditions during those days.

[Correspondent] In the meantime our readers have reacted to these changes with a fairly large number of sharply critical letters. One of them compares you to a farmer who has been given a collective farm field. Having been given the field he is able to work it to high standards of quality over only a relatively small portion. That is why there are so many repeats on your "field" and your programmes are excessively long drawn out and politicized.

[Davydov] To be brief, after 22 August, when we took the first channel, we were not ready to "plant" our "portion of the field". No doubt we are not totally ready now, for virtually the same 70 people who used to fill five hours of broadcasting time are now having to fill 24 hours of it. Here, however, we should talk a little about history. When we conceived our program, conditions were different. We were thinking about a program of the "Mayak" type. We did not have "doubles" and "orbitas" and so on. On the strength of this concept we intended to repeat eight-hour blocks three times so that they could be heard throughout the territory of the country. However, having begun to operate this system we realized that it was an interesting one only in theory and that it does not justify itself in practice. This idea is now being redefined and I think that we shall have some serious broadcasting changes from 1 November.

[Correspondent] Listener Cherkasov from Vorkuta asks: The all-union program used to have everything—programs for agricultural workers, children, young people. There were programs like "Writers at the Microphone," "Meeting With a Song," and so on. Where have these all gone? The overwhelming majority of listeners have no access to three-channel receivers and are doomed to hearing nothing but Radio Rossii.

[Davydov] There is some truth in these words and we are trying to put the shortcomings right. I have already said that programs will differ substantially from present ones after 1 November. We are holding talks with the editorial departments of All-Union Radio and intend to make our time available to those programs which enjoy considerable and deserved prestige amongst listeners. We understand that we have to provide the greatest possible range of radio programs, but given the fact that a revolution has taken place in radio the task is going to be solved in stages. [Passage omitted on listeners' complaints about announcers who do not speak clearly]

[Correspondent] It was a characteristic saying of the old leadership: Why should we listen to hostile voices when we can listen to Radio Rossii? There was some truth in this; in other words, there existed an official point of view which dominated Central Television and All-Union Radio, and any variant views were declared hostile. Opposition was not recognized. Now Radio Rossii presents the official points of view. What's going to happen to the opposition?

[Davydov] There is no opposition because it has not yet formed itself in this post-revolutionary muddle. No doubt it will take shape, it will be there. I do not agree, however, that we are the official radio. We are trying to become the state radio and we are therefore going to have to reflect the greatest possible spectrum of political views existing in Russia. It seems to me that even now that very factor is present in Radio Rossii to a greater extent than anywhere else.

[Correspondent] Millions of people who are conscious of the fact that they are citizens of Russia now live in other sovereign republics. What is the position of Radio Rossii with regard to these people?

[Davydov] Its position is a natural one; it is that their rights should be protected. Following 13 January and the notorious Lithuanian events, we are still dragging behind us a train of accusations that we allegedly abandoned the Russians in Lithuania and spoke up for the Lithuanians. For some reason or other no one then heard that we were not coming out against the Russian-speaking population, that we do not divide people into "ours" and "theirs," but that we defend constitutional rights. We have had and of course we will have programs about the position of the Russian-speaking populations in the republics. We intend to defend resolutely both human rights and the rights of the ethnic minorities, including Russian-speaking ones. Only, however, using constitutional—I stress, constitutional—methods. We are doing work in that direction and I have already agreed several duty visits to different republics for precisely this purpose. [passage omitted on good wishes expressed for successful fulfillment of Radio Rossii's plans]

Papers To Assume PRAVDA Facilities Abroad

PM2410143391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Oct 91 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Wire Services": "Russian Newspapers: Correspondents Abroad, But Based on PRAVDA"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium examined at its 21 October session the question of transferring to Russian newspapers more than 70 foreign correspondents' centers of newspapers belonging to the PRAVDA publishing concern. The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers instructed the Russian Ministry of the Press and the Mass Media to allocate the corresponding hard currency to this end.

Independent Broadcasting Association Formed

OW2410182091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1210 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Independent Broadcasting Association was set up in Moscow on Wednesday. The founders include the Association of Auteur Television, the Europe plus USSR joint venture, the Ekho Moskvy radio station and the Academy of Russian Deputies.

The purpose of the association is to promote non-governmental broadcasting, protect the interests of independent braodcasters and the rights of listeners and viewers.

Additional information is available at Ekho Moskvy, Nikolskaya St. 7, Moscow, 103012, tel. 292 20 01.

International Affairs

Republic Reportedly 'Going to Join NATO'

LD2410224491 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev] So, the Ukraine is going to create its own armed forces. Well, here's another sensation. Russia is going to join NATO. From 18 to 23 October a Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] delegation attended NATO's North Atlantic Assembly for the first time. In an interview with INTERFAX Sergey Stepashin, the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet's committee on security, who led the delegation, disclosed that preliminary agreement had been reached on associated membership of NATO's North Atlantic Assembly for Russia.

Further on Russian NATO Membership

OW2410215591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Russian delegation has for the first time participated in the work of the NATO North Atlantic Assembly. In an exclusive interview with "INTERFAX" Sergey Stepashin, the president of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Security Committee and leader of the delegation which took part in the 37th assembly (18th - 23rd October), said that preliminary agreement had been reached on Russia's associate membership of the NATO North Atlantic Assembly. Stepashin himself spoke at the assembly, as did the Chief of General Staff at the Defense Ministry, General Lobov.

For the time being Russia has been granted permanent observer status. However, Stepashin announced that if parliament agrees to associate membership status the question will be submitted to the next session of the assembly to be held in Canada in January next year.

Mr. Stepashin went on to reveal that he had been made a member of the Assembly's Defense and Security Committee.

This organization has expressed a readiness to afford professional and financial assistance for the realization of the programme to convert military-industrial enterprises to civilian production. This range of questions is to be discussed at a meeting with the NATO leadership in December to which Stepashin has already been officially invited.

Kozyrev on Relations With Latin America

PY2210133691 Moscow Radio Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Report on interview with Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by unidentified commentator in Moscow—date not given]

[Text] This continent is culturally very interesting and close to us, the minister said, adding that most Russians think that Latin American traditions are linked to our own traditions. The Russian people are also very interested in the region's political, social, and economic development during the past few years, the minister said.

Some Latin American experiences are very close to us, Kozyrev said referring to the overthrow of dictatorships and totalitarian elements in Chile and in other countries, strengthening democratic processes, and the struggle against economic backwardness.

Minister Kozyrev said that the ideals of some social movements, like the Latin American Peace and Security Organization, are very interesting and could be used as an example of how to establish dialogue at the social

level among the republics on matters like security, human rights, the strengthening of democracy, etc.

I think, Kozyrev said, that Latin America and Russia have many things to talk about, to share, and many viewpoints to discuss. We, of course, favor a more dynamic relationship with Latin America.

Andrey Kozyrev also talked about the Cuban situation. We were all taught to have deep sympathy with Cuba and Cubans, this sympathy is with us today and will continue in the future, the foreign minister said. Kozyrev added that political developments in Cuba are understood like the ones that are occurring in this country. All peoples yearn for democracy, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, of expression, and free elections, Kozyrev added.

This is the best option for any nation. However, each country must decide by itself and in its own time. The minister added that he is optimistic about the future of Russian-Cuban relations.

Prospects for good relations, guided by past experiences, are very good, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev concluded.

Belorussia

New Prosecutor To Resign From Other Post

PM2310130791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Oct 91 p 1

[O. Yegorova report: "Privileges Do Not Go Undetected"]

[Text] Minsk—The Belarus Supreme Soviet has with difficulty confirmed a new republic general prosecutor.

He is USSR People's Deputy N. Ignatovich, former investigator for specially important cases. It would seem that the appointment was in the natural course of events; after all he is one of the most popular lawyers in the country. Some years ago he uncovered the so-called "Vitebsk affair."

However, at the session many opposition deputies did not simply have to defend Ignatovich's candidacy, they had to vindicate it. While it was being discussed, a telegram from a certain citizen Lukashenko expressing a lack of confidence in Ignatovich was made public! Whereupon sympathizers with "citizen Lukashenko" emerged in parliament—people from the silent majority of the deputies' corps, with whose help the progress of reforms in the republic has been stalled.

It seems to me that the powerful opposition demonstrated by deputies to the appointment is in many ways linked to the fact that Ignatovich is the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for Privileges. Will he continue his activity on this commission, and what is the situation in the country now regarding privileges?

"I am going to Moscow immediately to resign as commission chairman," Nikolay Ivanovich said. "But only because I believe that it is impossible to combine two posts. As for the Commission for Privileges' work, however strange it may seem, it is not diminishing. Whereas before we were dealing with the misuse of state property by highly-placed people, now, in connection with privatization, this property is being converted into personal property."

'Problems' Persist for Renamed Defense Society

PM2310142391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Oct 91 First Edition p 2

[Lieutenant Colonel V. Baranov report: "DOSAAF Changes Name"]

[Text] The Defense Sports and Technical Society [OSTO] of the Republic of Belarus was founded at the eighth extraordinary congress of the republic DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy] held in Minsk. As laid down in the adopted new statute, OSTO's aims and objectives are to prepare the republic's citizens for work and the defense of the homeland, and to develop technical sports and young people's technical creativity.

So, the name of Belarus' defense society has been changed. But, unfortunately, so far this has not alleviated the problems which are constantly encountered at the local level. These include the technical equipping of schools, the construction of student hostels, the selection of teaching staff, and many others.

Reserve Major General P. Maksimov will perform the duties of chairman of the Republic of Belarus OSTO Republic Council until the society's next congress.

Moldova

Ecology Party Nominates Presidential Candidate

AU2410221291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2016 GMT 24 Oct 1991

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev], ROMPRES, 24/10/1991—The Ecology Party of the Republic of Moldova nominated writer Gheorghe Malaciuc as candidate to the presidency for the presidential elections on December 8.

President Mircea Snegur and the former secretary of the Communist Party of Moldova, Grigoriy Yeremey, have also announced their candidature.

Dnestr's Smirnov Comments on Election Boycott

PM2410142991 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Oct 91 p 1

[TASS report: "They Will Not Elect a President"]

[Text] The Dnestr region will not elect a Moldovan president: This decision, which was adopted by a Dnestr Republic Supreme Soviet session, has been declared anticonstitutional by the Moldovan parliament.

Dnestr region leader Igor Smirnov, who was recently released from custody, explained the reasons for this decision: "We cannot participate in the presidential elections of a foreign state: You know, our republic proclaimed its independence at the end of August. Instead, a referendum on the question of independence and elections for our own president will be held on the territory of the Left Bank, in line with a decision by the session."

Viktor Pushkash, deputy chairman of the Moldovan parliament, told a TASS correspondent: "I consider the Dnestr region leaders' decision to boycott the Moldovan presidential elections to be illegal and ill-conceived."

State Monopoly on Sale of 26 Items Announced

LD2410092691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Moldova's Government has announced a state monopoly on the sale of a number of goods, including cigarettes, vodka, liqueurs, brandy, champagne, coffee, objects of gold and other precious metals, television sets,

tape recorders, matches, medicines, weapons—in all, 26 items. The decision has been made for the purpose of protecting the consumer market and organizing an effective campaign against speculation.

Trade Union Leader Cited on Wage Indexing

PM2410103991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by TASS correspondent: "Will Wages Increase?"]

[Text] Moldova's independent trade unions have demanded that the republic's parliament and government accelerate the introduction of a system for indexing the population's incomes. "People's dissatisfaction with the reduction of their living standard is reaching the danger mark," a TASS correspondent was told by Serafima Urekyan, first deputy chairman of the federation of independent trade unions. "We will not allow the working people to be 'stripped bare in the middle of the road.' Their wages must grow in accordance with the reduction in the ruble's purchasing power and growing prices on the consumer market."

Ukraine

Republic MPs Disregard Appeal To Join Union

OW2410182191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1210 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondents in Kiev, asked Ukrainian MPs [members of parliament] to voice their attitude to the appeal of the Soviet president and the leaders of 8 republics to the Ukrainian parliament. Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, Nursultan Nazarbayev and others declared that they could not imagine a union without the Ukraine and urged Ukrainian MPs to join the construction of the new union.

A total of 72 members of different factions were polled. None of them supported the appeal.

A Presidium member of the parliament Les Tanyuk said: "These are old games. We have tried this political union already. Unfortunately, it was not beneficial for the Ukraine. Let them give us a chance to decide our own destiny, and then we will think of an equal union with the states we find to be closest to us."

The appeal will reportedly be discussed at a plenary session of the Ukrainian parliament.

Chornovil Assails USSR Supreme Soviet

LD2410172291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1102 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Yevgeniy Pariyskiy and TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 24 October. (TASS)—Vyacheslav Chornovil, one of the three candidates for the Ukrainian presidency, has criticized at a press conference the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet. According to him, what is happening in Moscow at present "is a desperate attempt to gain the right to continue lording it with impunity over one-sixth of the globe."

In Vyacheslav Chornovil's view the convening of the USSR Supreme Soviet is "an attempt to resume controlling an empire, which no longer exists." According to him "this body is doggedly moving in the opposite direction to society and stubbornly ignoring the processes occurring in our country."

Commenting on the start of the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet session, he said that "Mikhail Gorbachev's speech sounded anachronistic." The main characteristics of the speech, in Vyacheslav Chornovil's interpretation, were "a stubborn reluctance to understand the new political situation and the new quality of politics in the former USSR and a stubborn fitting of reality to his own understanding." As a result, instead of being a program speech, and instead of being a package of new ideas or new concepts that could facilitate the transitional process and assist the republics in constructing real independence, it turned into a routine speech to an economic and party aktiv both in respect of its content and in respect of its audience, the contender emphasized.

Republic Government Announces Economic Program

OW2410182291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1210 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday the Ukrainian Prime-Minister Vytold Fokin proposed to parliament his concept of advancing the Ukrainian economy in conditions of independence. He spoke for immediate privatization because the structure of the Ukrainian economy does not meet market needs.

Fokin suggested large-scale redistribution of resources and investments in favor of agriculture, the light and food industries that directly benefit the consumer goods' market.

The Ukrainian Government is ready to stop financing unprofitable companies, primarily in the steel industry. Fokin claimed that it is much cheaper to pay unearned wages to people for several years than to back bankrupt companies.

Under the government plan free economic zones would be set up in the south of the republic and Transcarpathia. On the transition to a Ukrainian currency Fokin said that reusable coupons gradually ousting the ruble could be used as a step in this direction. Then the coupons will be replaced by a Ukrainian currency.

The Ukraine is ready to pay the part of the union debts which it spent, but will not recognize the union debts made without its consent. In the future it intends to take credits independently.

Parliament Appoints New Finance Minister

LD2410172691 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] At the evening sitting the [Supreme Soviet] session appointed the new finance minister of Ukraine. He is Grigoriy (?Pevtachenko).

The deputies also heard a report by Viktor Gladushch, the chairman of the government commission on the investigation of the fire which broke out in October at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, and measures undertaken for eliminating its consequences. The state minister of Ukraine, Gladushch, put forward a draft resolution on the stage by stage closing down of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant for discussion at the session.

In part the draft points out that for the steady supply of electricity to the national economy of Ukraine it is necessary to put into operation new, more reliable power units at the Khmelnitskiy, Rovno, and Zaporozhye nuclear power stations, to replace the Chernobyl power unit. But this argumentation was not to the liking of the deputies and they in their speeches stated that the Chernobyl station does not correspond to the existing rules and norms of safety. Thus it should be closed down in the near future.

All the same, the decision to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power station was not made at the session.

A number of ministries of the Ukraine, the Academy of Sciences, together with the standing parliamentary commissions and the Cabinet of Ministers, were commissioned with an immediate elaboration of a new variant of the resolution and putting it forward for repeated discussion at the session.

At the end of the evening sitting the deputies heard the statement of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine on the non-nuclear status of Ukraine presented by Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, but this draft too did not enjoy the unanimous support of the deputies. They singled out that this document is of extreme importance and that is why all paragraphs must be weighed and seriously thought out. As a result it was decided to finalize this draft and only then adopt it by the Supreme Soviet.

Kravchuk Plans Policy Statement 'Next Week'

LD2410205391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk recently said that there were virtually no prerequisites in the Ukraine for the introduction of its own currency. What are we going to bring to the world today? What can we sell except Mariya aircraft? At the same time, Leonid Kravchuk said the Ukraine has no intentions of losing its independence. He is planning to set forth his idea of internal and international policy of independent Ukraine next week.

Fokin Backs Rapid Privatization of Enterprises

OW2510011691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2046 GMT 24 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report": "Ukraine Favors Rapid Privatization"; transimitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Prime-Minister Vytold Fokin spoke in favour of an immediate privatization of state-owned enterprises at the Wednesday session of the Ukrainian parliament.

Mr. Fokin said that after independence the republic must rechannel resources and investment to the consumer sector, including agriculture, light and food industries. In the premier's opinion, the structure of the Ukrainian economy is not up to world standards. Mr. Fokin expressed readiness to stop financing loss-making enterprises, for example, steel works.

Free economic zones are planned in southern Ukraine and Transcarpathia.

...And To Service Its Part of Soviet Debt

The Ukrainian parliament declared that the republic was ready to service its part of the USSR's foreign debt but not the loans the USSR had obtained without its consent.

The Ukraine insists that the USSR's entire foreign exchange reserves must be divided among the Soviet republics in the manner the republics had agreed on. The republic asked the world community for information about the union's property and assets abroad. Kiev decided to notify the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international economic organizations that the Ukraine had not authorized the USSR to represent the republic in these organizations.

Advocates Joining Economic Union

LD2410171591 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet embarked today on the program for the main directions of economic policy in conditions of the republic's independence, which was proposed by the Cabinet of Ministers. Prime

Minister Vytold Fokin and other ministers analyzed the current state of the economy in the Ukraine and the ways for extricating it out of the crisis and then for building up stabilization there. In particular, the prime minister gave his reasons for the need for the Ukraine to sign the treaty on economic community of the republics.

Poll Shows No Trust in Union Leadership

LD2310203791 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] According to the data provided by Ukraine's Institute of Sociology 38 percent of the respondents declared during a poll that after the August putsch broad opportunities for effective reforms opened up in Ukraine, but 31 percent believed that these opportunities were not used by the leadership of the republic; 36 percent believe in the capability of the current leadership of Ukraine to bring it out of the crisis; 47 percent do not think so, and 77 percent of Ukraine's population do not trust the leadership of the former union.

Security Services Agreement With Union Signed

LD2410121191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1130 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)—Prior to signing interstate treaties between the USSR Security Service and the Ukrainian National Security Service, issues of espionage, counterespionage, information work, cadre training, and operational and technical provision will be regulated by a special agreement which was signed by Vadim Bakatin and Nikolay Glushko, the leaders of these services. This was reported today at the Center for Public Relations of the USSR Interrepublican Security Service.

Republic 'Insists' on Division of Assets

LD2410144591 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The session of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine continued its work in Kiev today. Adopted during the morning sitting was the statement of the Supreme Soviet. Its prehistory [as heard] is as follows:

The chairman of Ukraine's parliament received a note from the foreign economic bank of the republic stating that according to documents from the Moscow bank, Ukraine is obliged to, in a week's time, send to Moscow already money and payments in foreign currency. As pointed out at the session, the realization of these orders would lead to the suspension of currency payments to enterprises and people of Ukraine and lessen the currency revenues to the fund of Ukraine to the sum of 50-60 billion rubles by the end of this year.

A statement adopted by the deputies reads that Ukraine assumes legal heredity of the USSR relating to shares in the absolute sum of its foreign debt which fall on it. Together with this Ukraine does not bear responsibility for the repayment of union credits which were received upon agreement by the union republican currency committee if Ukraine did not give its consent for the receiving of such credits and this agreement was not formulated in the proper manner.

Ukraine insists on the immediate division of all assets in the union in accordance to the principles which were laid down with all states-subjects of the former USSR. Ukraine appeals to the world community to give it information on property and assets of the USSR abroad and makes it known to the International Monetary Fund, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other economic organizations that it did not commission the union to represent its interests in these organizations. The commitments of the union which it will bear when granted the status of associate [as heard] member of the International Monetary Fund will not apply to Ukraine, but Ukraine is prepared to pay off its share of the debts.

Parliament Debates Defense, Servicemen's Rights

LD2410173191 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] At the morning sitting [of the Ukraine Parliament] the deputies continued discussing the package of draft laws on defense and formation of armed forces of Ukraine. A draft on the social and legal protection of servicemen serving on the territory of Ukraine and members of their families was adopted in the first reading.

The law forbids the restriction of rights of servicemen regardless of their nationality, language, religion, or political conviction. Representatives of the institute empowered by the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine will be working in all military garrisons for protecting the legal rights of servicemen. A sub-unit for social protection will be set up within the composition of Ukraine's Defense Ministry.

Servicemen citizens of Ukraine serving on the territory of the republic shall take part in all-Ukrainian and local referendums, elect, or be elected to soviets of people's deputies. The servicemer shall be guaranteed the inviolability of the person.

The document did not evoke any special criticism on the part of the deputies, save one. The parliamentarians spoke of the need to include a provision on returning Ukrainian lads serving beyond the borders of Ukraine.

All the observations at the session are to be taken into account by the commissions during the finalization of this draft law.

The deputies then began debate in the first reading on another draft law, on alternative military service. The draft law registers the main provisions of such service by citizens whose religious convictions do not allow them to do military service. Taking into account the complexity of such service, it has been envisaged to extend the latter

to 3 years. I would like to remind you that such services as a rule are twice as long as military service.

The draft law on alternative service was adopted in the first reading. At this point the discussions and adoption of the package of laws on defence and armed forces were completed.

Military Bills Pass; Commanders Named

LD2410211191 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The session of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet continued yesterday. In the morning, trade union representatives from many regions of the republic came to the building of the Supreme Soviet with their demands. The session charged the delegation of trade unions and members of the Supreme Soviet standing commissions with examining these demands and reporting on the results. Some of them have already been taken into account. For instance, deputies have included for examination the draft law on trade unions, the issue of closure of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station, the concept of destatization and privatization and the report on the state anticrisis program.

Deputies spent the remaining time at the session on problems of defense and the building of the Ukrainian national army. The session approved in the first reading the draft laws on the defense of the Ukraine, on the armed forces of the Ukraine, on the Republican Guard of the Ukraine, on the state border of the Ukraine and on border troops of the Ukraine. The Supreme Soviet has confirmed Lieutenant-General Valeriy Oleksandrovych Hubenko in the post of the Commander of Ukraine's border troops. Colonel Volodymyr Oleksiyovych Kukharets has been confirmed in the post of the Commander of Ukraine's Republican Guard. The session of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine will continue work on 23 October.

Grinev Briefing on Nuclear Arms

LD2410124191

[Editorial report] Kiev Radio Kiev in English at 0100 GMT on 24 October carries a 10-minute announcer-read report on proceedings at a 23 October session of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet. After setting the scene and describing some proceedings of the session, the announcer says:

"Naturally, the issue pertaining to the stand of the Ukraine on nuclear arms on its territory was repeatedly raised. This issue is presently being considered in the world, not always in a delicate manner, even sometimes leading to misinformation. It was in this connection that the deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Volodymyr Grinev, held a briefing in the break between sittings upon the request of foreign journalists, in particular the British and Americans, who were perturbed by the latest reports by the Soviet news agency TASS. It was singled out that the central agency of the former union, referring to British mass media, reported that the British Government expressed anxiety with the fact that the Ukraine wants to take over the nuclear forces on its territory.

"It was stated at the briefing that something strange is being undertaken in Moscow on this issue, and that is why the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine commissioned the Foreign Ministry to make a corresponding official statement.

"In connection with the report of TASS, Volodymyr Grinev said the following:

"[Begin Grinev recording in Ukrainian fading into English translation] Today everybody is concerned at what is taking place in the Soviet Union and Ukraine, which is possible but not a reality—the division of nuclear forces. This is the most terrible variant for the entire world. Nuclear arms must not be proliferated. This is truly a misinformation as far as the stand of Ukraine as a state goes. Not one person of Ukraine's leadership has made statements as those reported by TASS."

"Ukraine will never take possession of nuclear weapons. Ukraine will take part in the joint command and leadership of nuclear weapons jointly with other republics of the former Soviet Union. Ukraine will adhere to the three non-nuclear principles. Possibly Ukraine will put forward a proposal to set up an international fund for destroying nuclear arms. We are today preparing a statement which could be adopted on the non-nuclear status of Ukraine already today. [end recording]"

Further on Grinev Briefing

OW2410181091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1210 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a Wednesday news conference in Kiev the deputy chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Vladimir Grinev stressed the determination of his republic to become a nuclear-free state. It will not have its own nuclear force. However, the Ukraine insists that nuclear weapons not be withdrawn to other regions, but be destroyed in its territory.

Earlier the Ukrainian parliament approved in the first reading documents on the formation of its own armed forces.

According to the draft documents, within two years the Ukraine will force its own armed forces consisting of 450,000 men. There will be three arms of services: the land force, the air force and the navy. The Ukraine will also have 30,000 to 50,000 Republican Guards who will include women.

Border guards will form a separate force.

The strategic force will occupy a special place and during the transitional period it will remain under union command.

Officers will serve on a voluntary basis, conscription will continue for soldiers. There will also be an alternative civil service. Ukrainian will be the official language of the army.

Dispatch of Hardware, Men Halted

LD2410141591 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Opening the [Ukraine Supreme Soviet] session after the break, the chairman of today's [23 October] session, Ivan Plyushch, made public the secret orders from the center on the formation and sending to Moscow of a joint military construction unit made up of 420 of the best experts and hundreds of items of the most sophisticated equipment. The pretext for this Moscow instruction was the alleged handing over of objects. The session instructed the minister [of state for defense], Yevhen Marchuk, and Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov to issue corresponding orders to the cities located on the territory of Ukraine to ban the dispatching of any hardware and men to Moscow. [passage omitted]

USSR Defense Official on Nuclear Arms

LD2410163691 Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow October 24 TASS—The Ukraine does not claim to possess and have under its jurisdiction nuclear weapons situated on its territory, Valeriy Manilov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Defense Ministry, told a news conference here today.

He made a reference to a statement made on Wednesday by Leonid Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, that nuclear strategic forces should be controlled by one authority and that the Ukraine does not claim this.

This attitude of the republic was confirmed earlier during consultative meetings at the USSR Defense Ministry, Manilov said. Nuclear weapons should remain under single control. All the matters connected with the country's nuclear potential are in the competence of the centre, he said.

"The Ukraine, just as any sovereign state, has a right to create its own armed forces", the Defense Ministry representative said. "This matter is being discussed at various levels. The USSR Defense Ministry participates in consultations. I believe a wise, lawful, civilized decision will be found and the Ukraine will take part in a defensive alliance, will find its niche in a single defense area on the terms it decides to accept".

Further on Manilov's Comments

LD2510101191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Report by N. Svanidze on a news conference by General V. Manilov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Defense Ministry, at the USSR Defense Ministry in Moscow on 24 October, and on a interview with General Manilov by an unidentified "Vesti" correspondent for which place and date are not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Svanidze] I think that none of the events brought to the fore by the centrifugal processes inside the former Soviet Union caused so many concerned comments as the decision of the Ukraine to form its own armed forces. Even the official refusal of the Ukrainian parliament to have nuclear weapons and its statement on the republic's nuclear-free status did not allay these fears. This was felt today at a news conference at the USSR Defense Ministry.

[Manilov] "I think that the world community has nothing at all to gain from the nuclear potential being divided on some pretext."

[Svanidze] That's what General Manilov said in the course of our conversation about the Ukraine's policy. The Ukrainian parliament has already given its approval, at the first reading, to the documents for setting up its own armed forces, which will include three branches of the armed forces totalling 450,000 people. With regard to nuclear weapons, the position of the republic's leadership is rather shaky. Kravchuk, chairman of the parliament, says that the Ukraine will be nuclear-free, and the parliament itself is not inclined to part with warheads for a transitional period. Of course, the decision of the Ukraine alone does not imply any definitive certainty about the military fragmentation.

[Manilov] "It is impossible to solve this issue unilaterally, only together."

[Svanidze] However, the prospect of the fragmentation of the Armed Forces of the former union into many unequal parts is quite real. At the same time the ever-changing fabric of relations between the republics is such a delicate matter that the eloquent general, in expressing the position of the Defense Ministry in his conversation with a "Vesti" correspondent, had to mask the position of his department diplomatically with respect to the Ukraine.

[Manilov] "It is natural that every sovereign republic has rights to its own national armed forces, but the fundamental interests of the people residing in these republics lie in using the armed forces to ensure the defense and protection of these interests with maximum efficiency and minimum expenditure." [video shows Manilov at a news conference speaking from the rostrum and in conversation with a "Vesti" correspondent]

Kravchuk Discusses Nuclear Forces

LD2410161491 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Leonid Kravchuk, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine, arrived in the Crimea yesterday. Serhiy Sysyun, our special correspondent, reports:

[Sysyun] Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk started his tour of the Crimea in Sevastopol. At 1500 the plane landed in Belbek, now a well-known airport. Just 40 minutes later came Sevastopol and the first meeting at the Sergo Ordzhonikidze plant. Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk spoke to workers at this enterprise about the economic and political situation in the republic and about relations with sovereign states. Here are just two points from the speech, almost word for word, about the economic interstate agreement: We will sign the agreement. No one rejects the economic agreement, only the Ukraine wants to sign this agreement on conditions profitable for the Ukraine.

Regarding the territorial organization of the Ukraine, Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk said his election program is based on the fact that the Ukraine is territorially united and indivisible. The chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine said he favors self-determination and self-government of territories within borders which are politically secured. [passage omitted]

Contact with the audience was being established, as they say, and one could feel people's reaction. Therefore, I want to present one such fragment. The talk is about the future referendum.

[Begin Kravcvhuk recording in Russian] There are no people, irrespective of nationality, who do not want to live as masters in their home. Independence means to be a master and to decide on the issues of where to build, what to build, on your own. Therefore, the atomic station would not have been built near Kiev. If Ukraine's leadership had had more courage then, I am convinced that this question would have been put to the people. Nobody would have agreed to build the Chernobyl atomic power station, which is not only a threat to Kiev but also to the Crimea through the Dnepr, 120 km from Kiev.

If the people chooses its state and creates its destiny and its life as it pleases, this people is worthy of respect. If it does not wish that, if it says, as the old tales say, come and rule us, if it is so, then it's a different question. The unity of the Ukraine with Russia and other republics—no one is going to break such unity. The introduction of two languages is your right, as is preventing the development of western Ukrainian nationalism—together, that is. Besides, let us look at what nationalism is and what national revival is. There is one thing and the other, there is one thing and the other! The fact that some people leave, even 5,000, in comparison with 52 million, that is absolutely not the opinion of all the people of the Ukraine. You see, we are accustomed here to decades of silence, when only one person spoke, or sermonized, rather than spoke, and everyone repeated that and everything was quiet. Now, a thousand people, or a hundred, go out on the street and say: We want to move toward Russia. So do I have to conclude that all Crimeans want to raise this issue now? Even if twenty deputies want this today, tomorrow there will be other deputies who will not want it! [end recording]

In the end, those current employees of the plant expressed their attitude to this meeting by applauding.

As is known, Sevastopol is the city of marines and it is obviously impossible to visit such city without meeting marines. This meeting with representatives of the Black Sea Navy took place yesterday. It is quite logical that the conversation turned to military issues and the future of the Armed Forces, apart from economic and political issues. Here is what Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk said:

[Begin Kravchuk recording in Russian] The Ukraine stands for the common defense space of military-strategic nature, i.e. all military and strategic forces including nuclear ones should be under collective authority and should be controlled from a single center—the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff. We are against dividing the military-strategic and nuclear forces between republics and against the transfer of nuclear weapons from one territory to another. We stand for destruction of both strategic and tactical nuclear forces. However, until this destruction is achieved by means of negotiation with all countries which possess this weaponry, and until everyone has agreed on destroying it, the Ukraine will be one of those who will stimulate this process. However, while this is going on, we stand for single control, for collective control from one center. As for everything else, proceeding from this concept, we are somewhat reconsidering the concept of reasonable sufficiency, which reads: troops totalling 9 percent or 8 percent of the population. For us, this would mean 450,000 in the Ukraine. However, that includes all forces, both strategic and nuclear, and so forth. Since we are handing that over to collective (?command) the principle of reasonable sufficiency sharply decreases here. The number of troops is examined, proceeding from this principle. However, these should be the armed forces of each republic which defend its interests. [end recording]

Zlenko on Disarmament, Arms Destruction

LD2410121891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1830 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By a TASS-UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 23 Oct (TASS)—The Ukraine will strive to participate in talks and conferences on problems concerning nuclear weapons and will consistently advocate their reduction. It is even now ready for such initiatives, Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukrainian foreign minister, said at a Kiev news conference, replying to questions on the Ukraine's desire to take control of the all-Union nuclear

weapons on its territory. On Tuesday, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet approved in the first reading a bill that provides for the establishment of control of this kind.

The Ukrainian Government is actively working in order to be ready, along with other states and on equal conditions, to commence the process of the destruction of nuclear weapons. The Ukraine will be a nuclear-free power, Zlenko stated.

The minister also recalled that the Ukraine's desire to become a nuclear-free state is enshrined in its declaration of state sovereignty. The document emphasizes the Ukraine's intention to become a neutral state in the future, refraining from participation in military blocs and adhering to three non-nuclear principles: nuclear weapons will not be accepted, produced, or acquired.

Statement on Nuclear Weapons, Treaties

LD2410213691 Moscow TASS in English
2051 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Kiev October 24 UKRINFORM-TASS—"The presence on Ukrainian territory of nuclear weapons of the former USSR is temporary. At present these weapons are controlled by the appropriate structures of the former USSR. The Ukraine insists on its own right to monitor the non-use of nuclear weapons deployed on its territory," the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet (parliament) said in a statement announcing the republic's nuclear-free status.

The republic will pursue a policy aimed at complete annihilation of nuclear weapons and its basing components, deployed on the territory of the state of Ukraine. It is going to accomplish this within a minimum timeframe, basing itself on legal, technical, financial, organizational and other possibilities, with the due guarantees for ecological safety.

The statement points out that the Ukraine, as one of the successors to the former USSR, will observe provisions of the 1991 USSR-USA treaty on reducing strategic offensive weapons insofar as it concerns nuclear weapons on its territory.

The Ukraine is prepared to begin talks with Belorussia, Kazakhstan and Russia with the participation of relevant structures of the former USSR regarding destruction of strategic nuclear weapons covered by the treaty.

The Ukraine will take measures to destroy all other nuclear weapons that are deployed on its territory and, with this aim, is ready, if need be, to take part in talks with all interested sides, including through existing multi-lateral mechanisms in the field of disarmament.

The republic, the statement continued, will take necessary measures to ensure the physical safety of nuclear weapons that are deployed on its territory until complete annihilation of these weapons.

The state of Ukraine is planning to join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty as a nuclear-free power and to conclude a relevant agreement on IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] guarantees.

Republican Guard Commander Interviewed

OW2510042791 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interior troops stationed in the Ukraine should be immediately transferred to Ukrainian jurisdiction and form the basis of a new republican guard, announced Colonel Vladimir Kukharets, the commander of the republican guard, in an exclusive interview with "Interfax". Col. Kukharets was appointed to his post on Tuesday by the Ukrainian parliament.

Fokin Reflects on Visits to Brazil, Malta

LD2410185591 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
0100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The chairman of the Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, Vytold Fokin, held a press conference on the results of his visit to Brazil and Malta:

[Fokin in Ukrainian fading into English report] I believe the visit was successful. We had many interesting meetings. We had a long conversation with the president of Brazil, the foreign minister, governors of the States of Rio de Janeiro and Parana. Meetings were organized with businessmen. I would like to particularly stress here that we knew that residing in Brazil are nearly 400,000 Ukrainians. Ill luck drew them out of the motherland and Brazil became their second mother. We met with people about whom one can talk very much. They have preserved the Ukrainian language and culture. Those were very touching meetings. We also visited Malta, and during the three hours we spent on the island we solved a very significant issue—we signed a protocol on trade relations. I believe Malta will be a nice partner for us, said Vytold Fokin.

Republic Delegation Ends Visit to CSFR

LD2510040691 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
0100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] A delegation of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine ended its working visit today [23 October] to Slovakia. The envoys of Ukraine met with members of the Slovak parliament, exchanged experience of work on the protection of borders and combatting crime.

Parliament Chairman on Crimean Nationalism

OW2410182491 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1210 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of the Crimean Autonomous Republic which went into session on Wednesday refused to include the issue of a referendum on the return of the Crimea to Russia in the agenda. The Russian-speaking population insists on such a referendum. At a rally in Sevastopol 5,000 people chanted "Crimea only in Russia". They called for picketing the parliament building and demanded the abolition of the 1954 Act on the transition of the Crimea under Ukrainian jurisdiction as well as a referendum on November 24 on a return to Russia.

The chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Leonid Kravchuk who attended the session said that the Crimea is an integral part of the Ukraine. "The residents of the peninsula made their hoice during the referendum in January this year", he reminded the deputies. He said the Ukraine would never agree to revise its eternal border.

Kravchuk believes that Ukrainian nationalism does not threaten anyone in the Crimea. According to separate actions, for example in the Western Ukraine where assemblies of nationalists do not collect more than several thousand people, one cannot conclude that someone is going to Ukrainize the Crimea by force. Neither did he see any reasons to speak about general support for the idea of separating the Crimea from the Ukraine.

Kravchuk assured the Crimean parliament that as part of the Ukraine the autonomous republic can fully count on its share of resources and assistance in social and economic advancement.

As for the Russian language, no one prevents the residents of Crimea from declaring it an official language in their republic along with the Ukrainian.

Ruthenians Call for Autonomy From USSR

AU2410164891 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 21 Oct 91 p 3

[CSTK report in "News From Abroad" column]

[Text] The Society of Carpathian Ruthenians operating in Ukraine appealed to the parliaments of the USSR and the CSFR to cancel the agreement on annexation of the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine to the USSR. The future of this region should be decided, according to the society, by a general referendum. In the meantime, the society demands autonomy of the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine within the USSR.

Criticisms of Chernobyl Study Clarified

PM2410090991 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Oct 91 p 2

[Interview with Professor Ye. Petryayev conducted by correspondent O. Yegorova in Minsk, date unspecified: "Seven Villages Do Not Add up to Chernobyl. Professor Ye. Petryayev Disagrees With IAEA Conclusions"]

[Text] Minsk—[Yegorova] Extensive publicity has recently been given to the statement by the Ukrainian physicist V. Chernousenko on the existence of an "international nuclear mafia" in the shape of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. As an expert with the nongovernmental organization "Chernobyl-Aid," do you share this view?

[Petryayev] Absolutely not. The IAEA's international prestige is unquestioned. Several international organizations from 25 countries have worked on the Chernobyl plan, the results of which were published in Vienna this spring. These people were independent scientists and high-class specialists. It would be blasphemous to cast doubt on the conclusions drawn by them following their survey of their "target"—seven villages from the "zone," and not the most polluted either. The figures are accurate and have been scrupulously checked.

But, would it not be equally blasphemous today to extend these "hyperaccurate" conclusions to cover all the affected territories? There are 2 million people affected by Chernobyl in Belarus alone, yet the experts have only examined 1,356 people! In general the international Chernobyl project did not envisage any assessment of the health of the so-called "liquidators." Nor did it cover those people who were evacuated during the first few days of the disaster—and there are tens of thousands of them. And there are those people who live in the most affected areas...

[Yegorova] But, as is well known, it was we who asked the IAEA for help, not the other way round. It was probably necessary to have given the independent scientists accurate guidelines ahead of time: After all, Chernobyl was a nationwide disaster. Incidentally, a great deal can still be corrected during the investigation, which has lasted months but, regrettably, has not been publicized as promised...

[Petryayev] And for the same old reason—our usual irresponsibility. And because of stinginess. The government has allocated just 1.5 million rubles [R] for this purpose. The entire project is essentially humanitarian aid. The public, thanks to whose activeness the entire world now knows so much about Chernobyl, could do little to find out about the substance of the project, let alone the details.

Even to the final conference in Vienna the person sent as the Belarus official representative was, so it was contrived, the vice president of the Academy of Sciences—a respected individual but not a nuclear scientist. While the public was represented by one eminent professional academic.

For all these reasons our delegation in Vienna was in the position of being forced to try to "catch up" on the situation. We were no longer able to influence the outcome—it was too late.

[Yegorova] And yet you managed to publish a joint statement with the Ukrainian delegation, calling the experts' reassurances into question. But, by disagreeing with the international consultative committee, have you not put your own professional reputation in doubt?

[Petryayev] Yes, of course... After all, it was even said in Vienna that there were professionals in Moscow and abroad, but that the protestors were ignorant. They just forgot one "trifle"—these "ignoramuses" are the ones who have to live next door to Chernobyl.

We expected practical help from the experts. But we didn't get any: The commission did not make full use of its intellectual potential and essentially worked inefficiently. Even the republic programs to eliminate the consequences of the disaster did not produce anything.

Who may possibly benefit from the research done by the international experts? First, the residents of the seven villages where they were working. And that is a considerable number of people. Second, the official bureaucracy—both here and abroad. As a result, aid to Chernobyl will probably decrease, and if the union should split up, Belarus, for instance, could find itself facing disaster on its own.

[Yegorova] So what should happen next?

[Petryayev] The information produced by the Belorussian and Ukrainian scientists should be more fully publicized. The time has come to sell that information abroad. And people there would be interested.

If we do not find funds in the very near future to cover Chernobyl's needs (and they are huge) we ourselves will be forced to forget about Chernobyl. We'll become like the nuclear lobby ourselves...

Georgia

New Wave of Armed Conflict in South Ossetia

LD2310145791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0930 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 23 Oct (TASS)—Last night Tskhinvali, the oblast center of South Ossetia, came under fire yet again from the direction of the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, Eredvi, and Mevrikisi. Artillery fire damaged residential buildings and some town facilities. Six people were taken to the oblast hospital with bullet wounds.

There is a critical situation in Znauri rayon. Georgian guerrillas maintain their concentrated attack on the rayon center and the neighboring villages, using heavy firearms, artillery, and unguided rockets. For the first time they have used new types of missiles with a wide radius of action. Practically the entire population has left Znauri, power and water supplies to the village have been cut off, and telephone communications are disrupted.

Rezo Khugayev, deputy chairman of the South Ossetian oblast soviet of people's deputies, told a TASS correspondent that the new wave of armed conflict is linked to the fact that the Georgian side has responded negatively to the order of the USSR minister of internal affairs on bringing in additional subdivisions and armored equipment to stabilize the situation in the region. Thanks to the assistance of the military it has been possible to resume the supply of humanitarian aid, food, drugs, and oil to the besieged oblast center along the main road between Dzhava and Tskhinvali. Other approaches to the town have been cut off by guerrillas.

There is concern for the fate of the residents of remote Ossetian villages where, as has became known from reliable sources, guerrillas continue to carry out armed attacks, take hostages, pillage, and steal cattle.

Armed groups have appeared on the Mamissonskiy pass and in Trusovskoye ravine in order to block the mountain roads in Dzhavskiy rayon.

A special commission of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs is carrying out an investigation of the crimes of guerrillas in South Ossetia. According to the commission's representative, during the confrontation between the Georgian and the Ossetian sides in the autonomous oblast more than 250 Ossetians have been killed, 480 injured, and 112 persons are missing. Ossetians have been expelled from 94 villages. In recent days the commission discovered a secret burial site near Eredvi village, with marks of monstrous torture on the bodies.

The Ossetian side continues to demand from the country's leadership the immediate introduction of a state of emergency throughout South Ossetia, the urgent evacuation of women, children, elderly, and injured from the areas of armed conflict. The population continues to demand the inclusion of the autonomous oblast in the Russian Federation and the unification of the South Ossetian oblast with the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic.

South Ossetia Situation 'Explosive'

LD2410151991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The sociopolitical situation in South Ossetia remains extremely tense and explosive. In the hot spots of the autonomous oblast, in Tskhinvali and Znaurskiy rayon, armed confrontation between the Georgian and Ossetian sides continues. Artillery and missile shelling does not stop. According to the press center of the South Ossetia information committee, last night random shelling took place in the northern and southern outskirts of the oblast center. The targets of shelling by guerrillas are the same: the Georgian villages of Nikozimi, Evrekisi, Eredvi, and Tavarashi, which are not covered by the state of emergency regime. According to preliminary data, seven people were wounded, and high-rise buildings were damaged. Ossetian self-defense detachments returned the fire to suppress the firing positions of guerrillas.

Alarming reports have been coming from villages of the Znaurskiy rayon. Here the guerrillas are using not only artillery and anti-hail guns, but also new long-range missiles, helicopters, and armored equipment against peaceful civilians. Over the last three days alone four representatives of Ossetian nationality have been killed and 12 people wounded.

Tskhinvali remains in a circle of economic and food blockade. All the approach roads to town are cut off by armed detachments. Along the Dzhava-Tskhinvali main road convoys of vehicles with humanitarian aid from Vladikavkaz can proceed only during the daytime under stepped-up protection by subunits of USSR Internal Ministry troops and armored personnel carriers. Industrial enterprises, construction organizations, and the railway station have stopped operating in the town and telephone communication has been interrupted.

A rally of officers' wives and Russian mothers residing in South Ossetia took place in besieged Tskhinvali today. It adopted an appeal to the United Nations and foreign governments. The document condemns the genocide of the autonomous oblast's people carried out by the government of the Republic of Georgia. Also, a letter was sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. It says: Along with the entire non-Georgian population of South Ossetia, we, Russian mothers, have become victims of Georgian nationalism. The things our children and the whole people of the autonomous oblast are going through these days defy description. Taking into account the catastrophic situation in South Ossetia's sociopolitical life,

we, Russian women, call for urgent help from all countries in the world. Stop the senseless bloodshed in the land which has become our second home!

Tskhinvali Blockaded; Yeltsin Cabled

LD2410154991 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz October 24 TASS—A rally of officers' wives and Russian mothers living in South Ossetia was held today in the besieged city of Tskhinvali, the administrative centre of the autonomous region.

The rally adopted an address to the United Nations and governments of foreign countries. The document condemns the genocide perpetrated by the Georgian Government against the people of the autonomous region.

A letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin was also sent. The letter says, in part: "We, Russian mothers, just as all the non-Georgian population of South Ossetia, suffer from Georgian nationalism. The suffering of our children and the entire people of the autonomous region defies description. The socio-political life in South Ossetia is in a critical state, and we, Russian women, call for urgent assistance of all countries. Stop this pointless bloodshed in a land that has become a second motherland to us".

The press centre of the South Ossetian Information Committee reports northern and southern surburbs of Tskhinvali came under fire last night. The aggressors are based in the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Mevrikisi, Eredvi, Tamarasheni to which the state of emergency does not apply. According to preliminary information, seven people have bullet wounds. Highrise buildings were damaged.

Ossetian self-defense units returned the fire.

Alarming reports come from villages of the Znauri district. In addition to cannons and hail guns, the Georgian side also use rockets, helicopters and armoured vehicles against the peaceful people. Four Ossetians were killed and 12 wounded in the district in the past three days.

Tskhinvali is still blockaded. All roads into the city are blocked by armed units. Convoys of trucks with humanitarian aid from Vladikavkaz can move along the Dzhava-Tskhinvali road only in daytime and under guard of units of Soviet Interior Ministry troops and armoured carriers. Industrial enterprises, building organizations and the railway station do not operate in the city. Telephone communication has been disrupted.

Non-Georgian Support for Republic Army Denied

PM2410132791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[Major K. Litvinov report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Georgia: Is There Such an Army?"]

[Text] Tbilisi—A rally took place near government house in Tbilisi. Deputy B. Chitava opened it with an announcement about plans to set up a Georgian People's Army. He declared that many non-Georgian officers living in the republic "have expressed a desire to devote their experience, strength, and knowledge to an independent Georgia."

I telephoned the Transcaucasus Military District Cadres Directorate and asked for a comment on the deputy's statement. The answer was brief: "It's the same old story. No such desire has been voiced by any of the non-Georgian officers in the district."

Incidentally, I. Tsereteli, chairman of the Georgian Party of National Independence, said in a recent interview that he sees a republic "free of Soviet troops" in 1992. He believes that the Army should leave all its weapons in Georgia by way of reparations for the moral damage!

Armenia

No Majority for Separation From Union

PM2510104791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Unattributed reported from the "IZVESTIYA, TASS, INTERFAX, BALTFAX, POSTFACTUM, REUTERS" roundup]

[Text] More than one-third of the population of Armenia advocates a complete break with the USSR.

Slightly fewer—34 percent—agree to Armenia's political independence provided there is economic integration with the former union republics. These opinion poll figures were announced on national TV.

Azerbaijan

Full Membership in Economic Union Opposed

OW2510014491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2046 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mr. Vakhid Akhundov, an economic councillor of Azerbaijan's president, said that Azerbaijan should not sign a treaty establishing an economic community of former Soviet republics as a full-fledged member of this community. Associate membership would be enough, said Mr. Akhundov. Last week the treaty was signed by eight Russian [as received] republics.

Profile of Aliyev Notes Returning Influence

LD2410132891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0806 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] A few years ago, during a reshuffle of the CPSU leadership, Geydar Aliyev was removed from the Politburo—due to his state of health. For some time nothing was heard of him, but now Geydar Aliyev's star has started to rise on the political horizon. We therefore asked our Baku correspondent Azer Khalilov to give us a political portrait of Geydar Aliyev.

[Khalilov] After Geydar Aliyev had his membership of the CPSU Central Committee annulled in 1987 by so-called personal request, few people had any doubt that this constituted the final political knockout of the former leader of the Azerbaijan party organization, member of the Politburo, and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The Aliyev who fell into oblivion began to slowly emerge on the surface of the political picture in the republic.

In protest of the mass annihilation of his compatriots in the forces of the Soviet Army, he left his privileged positions in Moscow, and settled in his homeland of Nakhichevan. In 1990, Geydar Aliyev amazed everyone with his resounding victory in the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan. Taking part in sittings of the republican parliament, he was conspicuous for his sharp criticism of the union and republican leadership for looking on as Azerbaijanis in Karabakh and border regions were subjected to genocide. He thus enraged his former party colleagues. Geydar Aliyev believes that his activities as a deputy had an impact on the results of the referendum on whether to retain the old union: only 20 percent of the Nakhichevan population voted. On 19 July, one month prior to the August coup, Geydar Aliyev resigned from the CPSU in protest against the turn to the right by the CPSU leadership, the guilty men in the bloody lynching of democracy in January 1990 in Baku, and the Karabakh adventure planned by the center. On 19 August the democratic forces in Nakhichevan, and the republic's entire democratic opposition, condemned the military coup d'etat, and called upon Azerbaijani soldiers not to obey State Committee for the State of Emergency orders. On 4 September Geydar Aliyev was elected chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. Moreover, he won the votes of both communists and democrats. Evidently the Nakhichevan Majlis deputies' decision was influenced by the telegram from Geydar Aliyev, twice Hero of Socialist Labor, to Moscow requesting that the bust erected in his honor in Nakhichevan be dismantled.

Thus Geydar Aliyev automatically became a deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet. This course of events did not at all fit in with the republican leadership's plans. At an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet convened on 8 October, at the insistence of the Popular Front, clause 2 of Article 112 of the Constitution was repealed through trickery, after which the chairman of the Nakhichevan parliament was stripped of his status as deputy chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet. This move by the leadership of the presidium was unanimously condemned by the deputies, who declared that the Constitution could not be used as a weapon against certain individuals. The Supreme Soviet ruling was overturned by the deputies, on a majority decision. Thus, the status quo was reinstated.

In his new capacity Geydar Aliyev made specific moves to ensure public safety in Nakhichevan and lift the blockade of the autonomous republic. For the first time, there was contact with Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of Armenia, which allows us to expect that certain agreements will be reached. To overcome the food and fuel crisis, the autonomous republic turned to neighboring states, Iran and Turkey, for help. The first road convoys with food have already arrived in Nakhichevan, and the opening of a bridge providing a link to Turkey is expected shortly. Also, a railway link between Baku and Nakhichevan has become possible via the territory of neighboring Iran, bypassing the Megrinskiy Rayon of Armenia.

It would be wrong to deny the role of Geydar Aliyev in recent political events, and equally so to exaggerate it. The fact that he enjoys popularity in his homeland is undisputed. His ratings have risen throughout Azerbaijan as a whole as well, due to his principled stance on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and on domestic policy issues. Azer Khalilov, for the Radio Rossii news service, Baku.

[Announcer] And here I would only add that it is such a pity that the people of Azerbaijan were earlier unaware that the former chairman of the Azerbaijan KGB, former first secretary of the Azerbaijani Communist Party Central Committee, and former first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Geydar Aliyev, was such a great reformer and democrat.

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

Azeri Delegation Departs for 25 Oct Talks

NC2410191291 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] A competent delegation headed by Zviyad Samedzade, first deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Republic Supreme Soviet, departed for [words indistinct] on 24 October. The members of the delegation will hold talks with an Armenian parliamentary delegation on 25 October.

The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet press center has said the dialogue between the two republics' representatives in the Caucasus will be held in Idzhevanskiy Rayon in Armenia. The two sides will discuss their perspectives of inter-republic relations in light of the [words indistinct]

in Zheleznovodsk, which has prompted the Azerbaijani-Armenian dialogue. Azerbaijan believes the abrogation of all unconstitutional acts related to Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast should be regarded as an essential condition for maintaining the practical dialogue between the conflicting sides.

Further on 25 Oct Discussions

OW2410215691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The second meeting between the delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan trying to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will take place in the suburbs of the Armenian town of Idzhevan Friday, October 25.

As Babken Ararktsyan, head of the Armenian delegation for talks, first deputy chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council, said, in the first place the two sides will discuss the cease-fire problem, the lifting of railway and highway blockades and the fate of hostages.

Mr. Ararktsyan said that the Armenian delegation intends to give an official response to the statement by Araz Alizade, Chairman of the Azerbaijani Social Democratic Party, in the Russian TV news program "Vesti" a few days ago. Mr. Alizade then said that in case the observers from Russia and Kazakhstan fail to carry out the peace-making mission in Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan will begin setting up its own army.

Russian Observer on 'Timid' Peace Talks

PM2410135391 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[Pavel Anokhin report under the "Hot Spots" rubric: "Everyone Has His Own Truth, and It Kills..."]

[Excerpt] As we have already reported, a meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan to settle the conflict was held 19 October through the mediation of observers from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan.

Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic People's Deputy Pavel Lysov, member of the Russian observers group, commented on its results:

"In my opinion, the meeting went quite well. Right after it began it became clear that both sides, despite seeming resistance, want this dialogue. Both the Armenian and the Azerbaijani delegates spoke of the need for such talks, expressing a desire to discuss the problems of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. The representatives agreed on the standing orders for the talks, the composition of the delegations, and the place and date of the next meeting. In addition, the observers group discussed with the Azerbaijani delegation a number of urgent questions concerning, for example, the opening of the airport at Stepanakert, transport links, telegraph and telephone communications, the delivery of mail, and the work of television."

Of course, all these are just timid attempts to take a step toward peace. How strong and sincere they are will be shown by the talks to be held 25 October, this time in the Armenian border settlement of Idzhevan. Meanwhile, while plenipotentiaries from both republics are coordinating standing orders and arranging various diplomatic steps, shots are ringing out and people are dying in the settlements and villages in Nagorno-Karabakh. [passage omitted]

Oblast Committee Demands Supreme Soviet Role

LD2410203891 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Levon Ter-Petrosyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh executive committee [as received], has sent a telegram to the USSR Supreme Soviet session and the presidents of the country and Russia which states that the Soviet of People's Deputies of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic insists that a group of its deputies be allowed to participate in the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet with all rights and with an interest in the rapid creation of a single economic and political space.

This demand is prompted by the fact that the independence of Azerbaijan has been restored within the boundaries of 1918-1920 and that the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has been proclaimed within the composition of a single union of sovereign republics. The telegram was circulated today by the Karabakh news agency.

Deputies from Armenia are not attending the session in Moscow, while deputies from Azerbaijan are present as observers.

Kazakhstan

Presidential Election Set for 1 December

PM2410145191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Oct 91 p 2

[Correspondent T. Yesilbayev report: "Kazakhstan: Presidential Elections Scheduled"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The other day an extraordinary session of the Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution "On Scheduling the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic Presidential Elections." They will be held 1 December this year. The first and at present only candidate for this post is already known—the republic's present leader Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Potential Challenger for Nazarbayev

OW2510050091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The central political council of the National-Democratic Party "Joutoksan" (the Kazakh for December) has nominated its leader Hasen Kozhahmetov as candidate for Kazakh presidency. The party activists are collecting signatures in the republic's southern regions: Chimkent, Jamboul, Alma-Ata, and Kyzyl-Orda, where the incumbent President Nursultan Nazarbayev has the weakest positions.

Hasen Kozhahmetov attacks Nazarbayev's policies as inadequate to the requirements of the moment. He finds that nothing is being done in the republic apart from luring [as received] declarations of transition to market economy.

According to the Joutoksan press centre, 38,000 signatures have been collected in support of Hasen Kozhahmetov's candidacy. Under the recently passed law on presidential elections in the Kazakh republic, registration of a candidate requires a minimum of 100,000 signatures.

The presidential election is coming in Kazakhstan Dec 1, 1991 .

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Meets Press After 21 Oct UN Visit

LD2310180491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0240 GMT 22 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations, 22 Oct (TASS)—The USSR's future lies in creating an association of states along the lines of the British Commonwealth of nations. This is the view of Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev. Speaking at a news conference at UN Headquarters on 21 October, Akayev emphasized that a treaty for a political union of sovereign states can become a reality only if it envisages the creation of such an assocation. The Kyrgyz leader believes that it might be possible to return to the question of this treaty in the second half of 1992. However, all member republics of the Economic Community Treaty could sign two more treaties by the end of this year: a treaty on a military-defensive alliance and a treaty on humanitarian cooperation.

On the Economic Community Treaty, signed in Moscow a few days ago, Akayev said: "There is much in this treaty that is not to my liking, as president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, and of the republic's Supreme Soviet. It preserves that known tendency toward resurrecting a center with a directing role, which we have objected to all along. Its juridical basis, too, is far from perfect. Even so, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan signed it. It did so first and foremost because this treaty should help all of us, together, to get through the coming winter, truly this winter of our discontent. No less important is the fact that the treaty is a symbol of peace among sovereign republics, a symbol of our common striving to good-neighborliness and cooperation."

The president said that all republics are entitled to consider seeking UN membership. We are also considering it. "Not for today, but when we have gone some way and endowed our sovereignty with some real content." We have adopted a sovereignty declaration. We now must pass a law on independence, then hold a referendum, and thereafter seek recognition by the world community. The United Nations, he continued, could play an important role in ensuring stability in various parts of the Soviet Union. In Central Asia, the region where our republic is located, events similar to those now taking place in Yugoslavia are entirely possible. There are many reasons for this, including the population explosion, slow economic growth, and interethnic contradictions. I do not rule out the possibility that the United Nations might play a part in resolving bitter national conflicts in the USSR. An example might be the long drawn-out conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It goes without saying that this could not involve the use of force, only of peaceful means. Moreover, this should happen only with the concurrence of the parties to the conflict.

The Kyrgyz president said that the acceptance of republics into the United Nations in no way excludes the USSR being a Security Council member and, indeed, a permanent member. Answering a question about the prospects for signing a military-defensive alliance, he said that such a treaty is an objective necessity for all the republics. The Soviet Union possesses immense stocks of nuclear, chemical, and other weaponry, dispersed across the territory of all the republics. Uncertainty about the fate of this weaponry naturally arouses worldwide concern. "We are for the armed forces in this country being unified, and where strategic nuclear weapons are concerned, they should be in only one set of hands: those of

President M.S. Gorbachev. This would provide a security guarantee both for the Soviet Union and for the whole world." As I see it, the president added, a military-defensive alliance could resemble NATO.

In answering a question, Akayev stressed that the new union should be founded on flexible principles. The nature of these principles could be partially federal, partly confederal, and partly that of a community. I proposed just such an approach two years ago; however, then the tendency in this country toward creating a unitary state was established. My ideas found no support. We irretrievably lost a number of republics, whereas we could have preserved all fifteen.

Further on Akayev's UN Visit

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0957 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov]

[Text] New York October 23 TASS—The Soviet Union cannot be restored as a state created on the basis of the Russian empire. Any association between the former republics is possible only through adjustment of their vital interests. Such an adjustment has already led to the signing of an economic community agreement. And I pray it will also lead to a treaty on defense and a treaty on humanitarian cooperation, Askar Akayev, State Council member and Kyrgyz president said in the course of the UN General Assembly 46th session discussion on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) annual report.

Akayev also pointed out that Kyrgyzstan follows the IAEA activities thoroughly because the republic was engaged in uranium procurement both for the first Soviet nuclear bombs and for the first Soviet nuclear power stations. IAEA is an adversary of nuclear arsenals reductions [as received] and major steps in this direction could be made through transforming the non-proliferation treaty of 1968 into a permanent agreement with subsequent judicial formalities at a conference on the treaty in 1995.

Paying tribute to IAEA efforts to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and to the disclosure of Iraqi failures to comply with the agreement on guarantees, the Soviet representative devoted a major part of his speech to problems of the Soviet republics' new uUnion treaty in relation to the global security.

Free Economic Zone Planned for Naryn Region

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2050 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan has drawn up a document setting forth the organizational structure for a free economic zone in the republic's Naryn Region, which borders on China. The document says that the aim is to expand trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation with foreign countries, and attract foreign capital, know-how and managerial expertise.

The incentives specified in the document include tax and customs duty preferences, simplified export and import procedures, legal protection of foreign investors entering into joint ventures or creating wholly-owned enterprises, and the right to rent land for up to 50 years.

The next session of Kyrgyzstan's Supreme Soviet is expected to enact a law on free economic zones in the republic.